

Three men with a shovel who sparked off the dock strike

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The national dock strike, which has affected all but Britain's smallest ports, was sparked off by a front-loading mechanical shovel, its operator and two dockers.

Under the Dock Labour Scheme, which is a guarantee of job security, the British Steel Corporation has used the shovel since 1979 to load lorries at Immingham, Humberside, when for one reason or another, iron ore trains to Scunthorpe steel works fail to run.

The operation of the machinery was considered to be a specialist job and therefore registered dockers were not expected to man it.

But because Immingham comes under the 36-year-old labour scheme and the operation is seen to be usurping the normal function of registered labour, two dockers are paid to "observe" the shovel, each on a pay rate of more than £200 a week.

Most dockers see the element of farce. But they also maintain that the scheme is the only way of protecting their jobs and avoiding the undignified

scramble for work which happened in the 1930s as a consequence of the natural ebb and flow of dock work.

Last weekend the ore trains failed to run because they had been "blackened" by the drivers in support of the miners' strike.

The Transport and General Workers' Union argued that the consequent use of the shovel to load lorries for Scunthorpe was simply to avoid the industrial action, and not legitimate under the scheme.

On Wednesday the National Dock Labour Board, which has a statutory duty to police the system, agreed with the union's point of view.

It claims that Immingham-registered dockers were paid to observe the disputed process, which took place between 3pm last Friday and 2pm on Monday.

But the dispute has to some extent become an argument about the method of policing the scheme nationally. The union has asked the National Association of Port Employers to give an assurance that no further breaches will take place.

Miners held as stakes are hurled at police

By Craig Seton

Police accused striking miners of being "determined to use violence" in clashes near Warsop colliery in Nottinghamshire yesterday, when stakes from a ripped up fence were thrown at officers. Two policemen were injured and 38 miners arrested.

The incidents happened when about 1,000 striking miners marched from Shirebrook colliery in Derbyshire, a short distance across the border towards the Warsop pit, which is part of the Derbyshire coalfield, and where 75 men are defying the strike and going to work.

Police tried to hold the striking miners on a bridge until reinforcements arrived but in scuffles that followed some broke through and joined about 1,500 other pickets at the colliery gates. Police said: "There was considerable violence used against the police and a very ugly situation developed."

One policeman received an eye injury and the other cracked ribs. Both were taken to hospital.

The arrested men face public order and assault charges. By yesterday morning 4,251 people, most of them striking miners, had been arrested during the 18-week strike.

Warsop is one of the three of the nine north Derbyshire pits producing coal. The others are Bolsover and Shirebrook.

The National Coal Board said that 565 men are now working in north Derbyshire out of a workforce of about 10,000. Yesterday's figure was slightly down because men at one pit have started their holidays.

The blockade of Llanwrda steelworks in South Wales by the transport union is to be lifted next week (our Cardiff Correspondent writes).

Local union officials said that too many jobs depended on the steelworks for the future of Llanwrda to be put at risk.

In a challenge to national union leaders Mr George Wright, Welsh regional secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said: "If the national union leaders cannot agree to lift the blockade over the weekend we will go ahead on our own."



Lambeth swirl: Dancers from Hawaii perform for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, and Mrs Runcie at Lambeth Palace yesterday (Photograph: Dod Miller).

GLC delays South Africa ban

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Greater London Council has postponed plans to bar from its concert halls performers who have visited South Africa unless they sign undertakings condemning apartheid and promising never to return to the country.

The controversial move was meant to be part of the council's anti-apartheid year, but it has been dropped from the authority's agenda because of doubts about its legality.

Officers of the council fear that if the bar was introduced members of the council who voted for it could face financial sanctions if, as a result, a performance in a council hall is cancelled. The move has been widely criticised by impresarios and musical agents who have

described it as a threat to artistic freedom.

Mr Derek Bond, the new president of the actor's union Equity, this week promised that it would defend to the utmost anyone who fell foul of GLC's demands for written criticism of the South African regime as a prerequisite to employment.

A detailed description of the proposed ban was withdrawn from the agenda of the latest meeting of the arts and recreation committee because it was thought to lay the council open to legal action. The matter is now unlikely to be discussed until October at the earliest.

Mr Peter Pitt, chairman of the committee, said yesterday that he expected the measure to be introduced in October, but a

Brittan says there are no jitters in Downing St

By Julian Hayland
Political Editor

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary and a former Treasury minister, said yesterday that the Government would not be diverted from its tasks by the "touch of midsummer madness" that was affecting political commentators, financial markets, and even some MPs.

They had the jitters, but there were no jitters in Downing Street or around the Cabinet table he said. The economy had been recovering steadily and nothing should obscure the fact. Growth continued; inflation was down.

Speaking at Guisborough, Cleveland, Mr Brittan said the supremely significant fact about the disputes at the mines and in the docks was that militant union leaders had not dared to ballot their members. Freedom and democracy were under attack from Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' union president, and his stormtroopers, who sought to coerce all who stood in their way. They could not be allowed to succeed.

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democrats, speaking at Matlock, Derbyshire, said the prospects for sustained recovery had receded sharply with the rise in interest rates. New investment would be choked off.

Raising the very doubt that Mr Brittan hoped to remove, Dr Owen said that recent statements from the National Coal Board sounded "alarm bell" for those who had watched successive Governments retreat under pressure from industrial action.

The coal strike was "clearly political, and must be beaten". Despite the tremors in the economy "an obvious defeat for the Government by the miners could stimulate an earthquake in loss of confidence".

In contrast to Dr Owen, Mrs Shirley Williams, president of the SDP and its second senior figure, blamed the Government for the behaviour of the miners' leaders, saying that, ironically, the Prime Minister's lack of concern for unemployment threatened the rule of law which she claimed to hold precious.

Miners and dockers who had few prospects of other jobs fought like tigers to keep their jobs. The miners' leaders' defiance of the High Court was an example.

New Labour move of defiance on councils

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

The Labour Party has taken a further step towards defying government policy on local councils. The local government sub-committee of the National Executive of the Party has sent a four-point plan of action to be considered by the executive later this month.

The sub-committee, which includes Dr John Cunningham, the party's chief parliamentary spokesman on the environment, has adopted the attitude of "non-compliance" with rate-capping which received overwhelming support at a special conference of Labour councilors and trade unionists last week.

It has also backed the stand of Labour councilors against using the Government's appeals procedure against rate-capping. It wants Labour councilors to boycott the joint boards which ministers hope will take over much of the work of the Labour-led councils that they want to abolish.

The fourth point from the sub-committee is that Labour councils threatened with government cuts and penalties should not meet government officials on their own. The aim is to prevent the Government from picking off councils individually, as the have done with Liverpool.

Although Labour councilors remain outwardly jubilant about the settlement of the Liverpool budget crisis, analysis of the deal suggests that scope for similar claims is narrower than Liverpool's councilors have suggested.

The gap between the Liverpool and government versions of the affair remains vast. Ministers claim that they have offered the city £5.9m under headings that meant that such funds were available to Liverpool and other urban authorities throughout the months in which Liverpool councilors threatened to pass an illegal budget.

It is clear that the £50m claimed by Labour councilors from the deal includes some money that they have themselves cut from their spending plans and a reduction in penalties which results from the slimming of the budget.

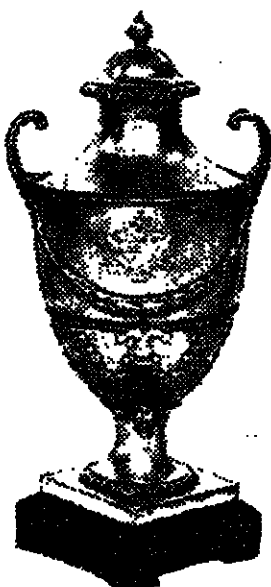
IMPORTS		EXPORTS		Million tonnes	
Clyde	0.4	2.5	Hull	1.5	
Main imports: iron ore			Raw materials, chemicals, manufactures		
Forth	0.8	1.5	Leamington	1.8	
Raw materials			Ore, coal		
Tees	3.6	5	Harwich	0.9	2.3
Ore, chemicals, manufactures			Manufactures		
Liverpool	1.5	3.4	Felixstowe	2.5	4.0
Food, raw materials (sugar)			Chemicals, manufactures		
Manchester	1.1	1.5	London	3.3	
Raw materials, manufactures			Food, timber, chemicals & manufactures		
Port Talbot	0.5	4.5	Medway	0.4	2.3
Iron ore			Raw materials, manufactures		
Bristol	0.2	1.5	Dover	2.4	3.6
Foodstuffs, timber, grain			Food, chemicals, manufactures		
Southampton		2.0			

Main ports: Trade that is at risk

Main ports: Trade that is at risk



TWO FOR TEA AT PHILLIPS



This handsome neo-classical tea urn by John Parker and Edward Wakelin was sold in one of our recent Fine Silver Sales

ONE - FETCHED £2,300 AT PHILLIPS



This elegant George III helmet creaming jug by Hester Bateman and was sold in the same auction.

TWO - FETCHED £260 AT PHILLIPS

The department is now accepting items, both large and small, for the next Fine Sale of Silver and Plate in October and for the regular sales of Silver and Plate which are held every Friday at 11 am.

Viewing: two days prior 9.30 am - 4.30 pm.

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Portfolio Barrister shares in £2,000 win

There were two winners in *The Times Portfolio* yesterday, each of whom receives £1,000. One is the widow of a Church of Ireland minister and the other a barrister.

Mrs Mary Lowry-Stone, aged 67, who has lived in Belfast since 1947 and was born in the city has been reading *The Times* for many years, partly to check on the markets. Mr David Green, aged 30, from South Woodford in London, is a member of the Inner Temple and turned to the law after reading history at Cambridge and working in the Ministry of Defence for a period. "Friday the 13th wasn't unlucky for me," he said yesterday.

A total of £22,000 is available to be won today; £2,000 in the normal daily competition and £20,000 in the weekly competition, which ends today.

Readers are reminded that they must subtract minus scores from their total in calculating the number they have reached. Readers who have not obtained a card and wish to do so should write to *The Times Portfolio*, PO Box 40, Blackburn BB1 6AJ enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

To claim, telephone *The Times Portfolio* claims line 0254-5272 between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm, on the day your overall total reaches *The Times Portfolio* Dividend. Readers are asked not to ring *The Times* newspaper number.

The Times Portfolio list, page 26 Rules and how to play. Times information service, back page.

Death plunge

Christopher Letitia, a Royal Marine aged 25, of Chesterfield, Derbyshire, died in Plymouth Hospital yesterday after crashing to the ground while abseiling 200 ft from a helicopter in a routine training exercise.

Newcastle school wins chess trophy

By Harry Golombek
Chess Correspondent

Royal Grammar School, Newcastle, beat Plymouth College by five games to one after some hard cut-and-thrust play in the final of *The Times* British Schools Chess Championship in London yesterday.

Details of this match with Newcastle names first.

Andrew Dunn vs. Andrew Luffham 1-0
Chris Thompson vs. Christopher G. Jonathan 1-0
Peter Lane vs. Martin Hazell 1-0

Government puts extra £1m into drugs war

By Richard Evans

A further £1m is being made available to combat drug abuse, the Government announced yesterday.

The extra cash, £750,000 of which will be forwarded to health authorities this year, will help to finance clinics, advice centres and educational projects designed to fight drug misuse. The Government has already provided £6m for local initiatives during the next three years.

Mr John Patten, a junior minister at the Department of Health and Social Security, made the announcement at the end of a Commons debate on drugs in which MPs from all parties condemned the worsening drug crisis in Britain, especially among young people.

Mr Frank Dobson, Labour MP for Holborn and St Pancras and an Opposition spokesman on health, said the extra cash



Roll of honour: Lord Denning, aged 85 Master of the Rolls from 1962 to 1982, with the honorary degree of law which he received at Nottingham University yesterday.

Gypsy campers on heath moved out

By Kenneth Gooling

Hampstead Heath in north-west London returned to normal yesterday after police helped the under-sheriff of Greater London to move off the remainder of 400 gypsies who had been camped on the fairground site for three weeks.

The Greater London Council had obtained a High Court order for their eviction party, which included mounted police, arrived at 5 am only about a dozen of the original 60 caravans were left. Police said most had left the day before or during the night after being warned about the order to move them.

"We do not know where they must have scattered," a GLC spokesman said. "Hampstead residents may feel happier, but it is a sad situation for the travellers and one that will continue until proper provision is made for them."

Mink set free

Members of the Animal Liberation Front claimed yesterday to have set loose more than 500 mink from two farms in Lancashire. The police said a small number had been freed.

Minster wall may be pulled down

By Clifford Longley

The authorities at York Minster will know today whether the entire medieval wall at the end of the south transept, damaged by fire last Monday, will have to be demolished and rebuilt.

Since the fire, experts have been assessing the extent of the structural damage. The roof of the south transept completely collapsed in the blaze, and the roof timbers had been helping to give stability to the wall.

It contains the famous rose window with its design linking the white rose of Yorkshire with the red rose of Lancashire and therefore commemorating the end of the Wars of the Roses.

In the House of Commons yesterday, Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State for the Environment, said that the Government was ready to contribute funds.

Troops kill Ulster terrorist suspect

From Richard Ford, Belfast

A terrorist suspect was shot dead by soldiers yesterday in a suspension of violence in Northern Ireland after Thursday's celebrations commemorating the Battle of the Boyne.

Three men detained after Mr

Navy wants to improve mine warfare ability

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The Royal Navy is hoping to spend £1,000m over a 15-year period to improve its mine warfare capability.

Its ability to mine off war to keep the seas round Britain clear of enemy mines, and to lay its own mines, has long been regarded as one of its main weaknesses.

It is commonly said that in a European war it would be difficult to keep some east coast ports clear of mines, as well as the western approaches to the Channel and, most important, the approaches to the submarine bases on the Clyde.

The Navy would like to be able to deploy nearly 100 vessels in mine countermeasures operations. These would include older vessels and civilian vessels such as trawlers adapted for the task. The scheme would rely heavily on a large contribution by the Royal Naval Reserve.

The £1,000m cost of over 15 years, much of which has yet to receive ministerial authoriza-

tion, has to be compared with the £2,200m which the Ministry of Defence is spending in the present financial year on the development and production of all kinds of sea equipment.

The Navy is already bringing into service mine counter measure vessels of Hunt class, which each cost between £24m and £30m. It aims to have eight in operation by the end of the year and hopes ultimately to have up to 15, although it is thought that cost may limit this number.

Twelve single-role mine-sweepers of the River class are on order, and four should be in service by the end of the year.

Council fined

Torbay council in Devon was fined a total of £8,000 by the town's magistrates yesterday on 20 charges of overloading dustbin lorries by up to three tons. It had pleaded not guilty.

Racing picture fetches a record £777,000

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The British school of sporting painting joined the big time yesterday when a new auction price record, nearly doubling the previous one, was set at £777,600.

The painting, titled "The Doncaster Gold Cup of 1838", is a collaboration between two of the most sought-after sporting artists, J. F. Herring (Sir) and James Pollard. Even Stubbs, the greatest master of horse portraiture, has never scored more than £400,000 at auction. The top for Herring was the £293,000 paid for his "Horse Fair" in New York last month.

The painting depicts a gay, colourful crowd packing the stands, splendid racecourse architecture and, naturally enough, horses and their jockeys streaking for the winning post. It is a large and decorative work. Christie's had been talking of a price of between £300,000 and £500,000 before the sale.

It was among a group of fine sporting pictures sent for sale by Mr H. J. ("Jim") Joel, one of the greatest owner-breeder of the post-war era who will be 90

Data protection registrar is named

The first data protection registrar is expected to be Mr Eric Howe, deputy director of the National Computing Centre. (Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent, writes).

His appointment will be the first step towards implementing measures in the Data Protection Bill, which has now received Royal Assent. He will establish the public register of data users and computer bureaux.

Mr Howe, aged 52, is chairman of the National Computer Users' Forum.

Corrections

The Second World War Spitfire Mk XI, to be sold at Duxford next month by Christie's, is expected to sell for £250,000, not £1.25m as stated yesterday.

The barrister rebuked by Judge Suzanne Norwood at Inner London Crown Court for suggesting that housewives do not work was Mr Martin Rose, not Mr Martin Rose, as reported in *The Times* yesterday.

Overseas selling prices
£100,000-£120,000: 1940-45
£120,000-£140,000: 1946-47
£140,000-£160,000: 1948-49
£160,000-£180,000: 1950-51
£180,000-£200,000: 1952-53
£200,000-£220,000: 1954-55
£220,000-£240,000: 1956-57
£240,000-£260,000: 1958-59
£260,000-£280,000: 1960-61
£280,000-£300,000: 1962-63
£300,000-£320,000: 1964-65
£320,000-£340,000: 1966-67
£340,000-£360,000: 1968-69
£360,000-£380,000: 1970-71
£380,000-£400,000: 1972-73
£400,000-£420,000: 1974-75
£420,000-£440,000: 1976-77
£440,000-£460,000: 1978-79
£460,000-£480,000: 1980-81
£480,000-£500,000: 1982-83
£500,000-£520,000: 1984-85
£520,000-£540,000: 1986-87
£540,000-£560,000: 1988-89
£560,000-£580,000: 1990-91
£580,000-£600,000: 1992-93
£600,000-£620,000: 1994-95
£620,000-£640,000: 1996-97
£640,000-£660,000: 1998-99
£660,000-£680,000: 2000-01
£680,000-£700,000: 2002-03
£700,000-£720,000: 2004-05
£720,000-£740,000: 2006-07
£740,000-£760,000: 2008-09
£760,000-£780,000: 2010-11
£780,000-£800,000: 2012-13
£800,000-£820,000: 2014-15
£820,000-£840,000: 2016-17
£840,000-£860,000: 2018-19
£860,000-£880,000: 2020-21
£880,000-£900,000: 2022-23
£900,000-£920,000: 2024-25
£920,000-£940,000: 2026-27
£940,000-£960,000: 2028-29
£960,000-£980,000: 2030-31
£980,000-£1,000,000: 2032-33
£1,000,000-£1,020,000: 2034-35
£1,020,000-£1,040,000: 2036-37
£1,040,000-£1,060,000: 2038-39
£1,060,000-£1,080,000: 2040-41
£1,080,000-£1,100,000: 2042-43
£1,100,000-£1,120,000: 2044-45
£1,120,000-£1,140,000: 2046-47
£1,140,000-£1,160,000: 2048-49
£1,160,000-£1,180,000: 2050-51
£1,180,000-£1,200,000: 2052-53
£1,200,000-£1,220,000: 2054-55
£1,220,000-£1,240,000: 2056-57
£1,240,000-£1,260,000: 2058-59
£1,260,000-£1,280,000: 2060-61
£1,280,000-£1,300,000: 2062-63
£1,300,000-£1,320,000: 2064-65
£1,320,000-£1,340,000: 2066-67
£1,340,000-£1,360,000: 2068-69
£1,360,000-£1,380,000: 2070-71
£1,380,000-£1,400,000: 2072-73
£1,400,000-£1,420,000: 2074-75
£1,420,000-£1,440,000: 2076-77
£1,440,000-£1,460,000: 2078-79
£1,460,000-£1,480,000: 2080-81
£1,480,000-£1,500,000: 2082-83
£1,500,000-£1,520,000: 2084-85
£1,520,000-£1,540,000: 2086-87
£1,540,000-£1,560,000: 2088-89
£1,560,000-£1,580,000: 2090-91
£1,580,000-£1,600,000: 2092-93
£1,600,000-£1,620,000: 2094-95
£1,620,000-£1,640,000: 2096-97
£1,640,000-£1,660,000: 2098-99
£1,660,000-£1,680,000: 2100-01
£1,680,000-£1,700,000: 2102-03
£1,700,000-£1,720,000: 2104-05
£1,720,000-£1,740,000: 2106-07
£1,740,000-£1,760,000: 2108-09
£1,760,000-£1,780,000: 2110-11
£1,780,000-£1,800,000: 2112-13
£1,800,000-£1,820,000: 2114-15
£1,820,000-£1,840,000: 2116-17
£1,840,000-£1,860,000: 2118-19
£1,860,000-£1,880,000: 2120-21
£1,880,000-£1

Police step up hunt for 'Fox' after assaults on three young people

By Stewart Tiedler, Crime Reporter

As police patrols searched the area and watched the roads of a Chilterns village yesterday, the armed man wanted for sexual attacks and burglaries, nicknamed "The Fox", evaded his hunt, broke into a house and assaulted three young people.

The police had been called to the village of Edlesborough on the Buckinghamshire/Suffolk border after a man reported an intruder escaping from his home.

Dozens of armed officers were brought into the area, some with dogs, but three hours after the man broke into a second house 500 yards away.

A girl aged 18 was raped and her brother, aged 17, and her boyfriend, aged 21, were also sexually assaulted. They were in the same room when the girl was assaulted by a man who was armed with a handgun. All three were also eaten.

The man had become the target of a large police hunt in the Leighton Buzzard area after burglaries in the past four months. During the past eight months, however, the search has intensified because the burglaries have become linked with increasing violence.

Earlier this week the man raped a woman aged 35 after her husband had been tied up in his home. Last week he attacked another couple in their house, but fled when the woman removed a gag and screamed.

On Thursday night Det Chief Insp Brian Prickett, head of Bedfordshire CID, appeared on BBC Television's *Crime Watch* programme to appeal for public help.

Yesterday, the police officer said that he did not know whether his appearance had provoked the man into fresh attacks. The police are now being advised by a team of psychiatrists and Mr Prickett.

may be someone whose family believes he goes to bed each night, when in fact he is out prowling.

Mr Prickett said that further offences were likely. The police have already urged the public to take care, and he acknowledged that local people were growing increasingly upset by the attacks.

The police operation is now a joint one between the Bedfordshire and Thames Valley forces and Bedfordshire police had withdrawn their officers from miners' picket line duty in Nottinghamshire.

Villagers were yesterday angry about the attacks on the three young people.

One, Mrs Edna Grant, aged 73, who lives alone, said: "I am so terrified that I just cannot sleep. Every noise you hear at night is terrifying. He seems to know his way round the village. That is what is worrying us."

One near neighbour, who did not want to be named, said: "We heard nothing until about 3am, when all hell seemed to break loose. There were police everywhere, knocking on doors and searching buildings. The whole idea of what happened is absolutely petrifying."

They discovered the second attack when the three young people managed to free themselves, after being bound with electrical flex, and raised the alarm. Before leaving their house the man had watched some video films and is thought to have made himself a meal.

In similar attacks on other homes he has also made himself meals and cups of tea, and watched television. But police do not believe he is living rough.

Yesterday, as a police helicopter and light aircraft surveyed the countryside, Mr Prickett said that it was clear the man had good local knowledge. He is believed to be in his early to mid-twenties and



Manhunt: Police officers, some armed and wearing flak jackets, searching the village of Edlesborough yesterday for a man who has carried out sexual assaults and burglaries

British Rail wants to brighten up old stations

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

British Rail wants to breathe new life into old stations by involving local authorities and communities in development projects.

An "It's Your Station" campaign will invite local bodies to put forward ideas about how their station might be developed and how it might be financed.

Schemes for public houses, offices, bistros, country cottages and wine bars could be considered, Mr Simon Jenkins, British Railways board member for environment, said yesterday.

"We hope this campaign will encourage those who complain - often with justification - about our stations to come forward with practical and constructive ideas for improvement. We are determined to make progress and we want the local community, and the local private sector, to show it cares too."

Among those on British Rail's new environment panel, which Mr Jenkins chairs, is Mr Marcus Binney, chairman of Save Britain's Heritage.

● Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire has been given government approval for Britain's first custom-built heliport, planned to be ready in two years. It will handle mainly executive and taxi helicopters, which already fly in and out of the town at a rate of between 10 and 20 a day.

Cleaners' reward

Two women cleaners at Heathrow Airport, Miss Daljit Sidhu and Mrs Parminder Kaur, are to be rewarded by their company, South African Airways, for finding a ring, valued at £62,000, which Mrs P. W. Botha, wife of South Africa's Prime Minister, lost on the aircraft used in their recent visit to Britain.

Builders' aid pledge to first-time buyers

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Housebuilders yesterday responded to the mortgage rate increase by offering subsidies to new housebuyers to help them with the extra payments.

Several companies announced schemes for help, including Wimpey Homes, one of the largest builders. Its chairman, Mr Nelson Oliver, described the increase as "a cruel blow for all home owners and in particular first-time buyers".

On the political front, Mr John Fraser, Shadow housing minister, said the mortgage rise was a "stab in the back" for the homeowners who had supported Mrs Margaret Thatcher at the last general election.

"It will place many new house-buyers in acute financial trouble and it will also lead to a reduction in council spending on housing because the Government is making councils rely on money coming from tenants buying their own homes and getting building society mortgages. The rise, therefore, brings the threat of a moratorium on spending on council housing and grants even closer," he said.

Mr Fraser called on the Government to introduce measures to protect the construction industry from further difficulties and home seekers from being priced out of the market.

Mr John Cartwright, the social Democratic Party's housing spokesman, said that new home owners had been betrayed by the Government's false promises about the economy. "House prices have risen sharply over the last year. The promise of economic growth and steady interest rates has encouraged home buyers to dig deep into their pockets to find the price of a mortgage. Many stretched their budgets to the limit."

To help new buyers, Wimpey promises to cut mortgage payments for the first full year of ownership. New Wimpey customers will receive regular

monthly assistance of £50. Mr Oliver said: "For potential purchasers, the Wimpey scheme could mean the difference between a home and no home at all."

Ideal Homes, part of the Trafalgar House group, is introducing a mortgage subsidy for new house purchasers by pegging the interest rate at 10.25 per cent for 12 months.

Purchasers wishing to benefit from the scheme must reserve before September 30. The subsidy will be offered on mortgages up to £30,000 and the company will pay the difference between 10.25 per cent and the standard rate of tax.

The House-Builders Federation agreed that the rate had to rise, and the rise would help to maintain the availability of mortgages, which was important.

The federation took comfort from the fact that the increase had come in response to definable political difficulties, and believed that the effects would be short term. "In addition housebuilders are offering short-term subsidies to protect first-time buyers and rates may be back down again in a matter of months," a spokesman said.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said the decision would be a slight dampener on the first-time buyers' market and might well affect the market generally. "But we see this as a short-term measure and if it is a short-term measure then there is no great damage to be done to the housing market."

At the higher end of the market, the increase would stop the strong inflation of the past few months, in London in particular, and bring price increases down to between 5-7 per cent annually "where they ought to be", Mr Nick Lamb, a partner in Hampton and Sons, said. "This is a hiccup, and it will slow down price rises, but not stop them."

Jury woman evicted over racism outburst

Miss Annette Blair, a jury woman, was evicted from the Inner London Crown Court yesterday after accusing fellow jurors of racism and anti-Semitism.

Judge Ian McLean ordered Miss Blair, aged 27, a black business graduate of Black Prince Road, Kennington, south London, to be removed for a seven-year sentence on a lack man convicted of robbery by a majority verdict.

"There is racism on this jury," Miss Blair said. "It is a mockery of justice. The jury have not judged the case on the evidence. It is not fair."

Philby's son jailed for blackmail

The shame of discovering that he was the illegitimate son of spy Kim Philby led a man into a life of drunkenness, drug-taking and crime, a judge at the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Alan Young, aged 44 lived in children's home when he was ejected by his parents - his mother was a civil servant - but he dreamt of being reunited with his father one day. He was hounded when he learnt his father's identity and it had haunted him ever since, Mr Patrick Cahill, for the defence, said.

Young, an unemployed trader, of Selbourne House, Great Dover Street, Southwark, south London, was jailed for two-and-a-half years when he admitted charges of blackmail and burglary. A former soldier, he had 12 previous convictions for offences of dishonesty.

Judge Hazan told him: "I accept that the discovery that you are the illegitimate son of Kim Philby, a notorious spy, is something that has cursed you your great career."

"It has affected you understandably throughout your life. The revelation may well have played a part in your anti-social and criminal behaviour over the years."

Inquest told of fall-out exposure

The widow of a worker at the Sellafield nuclear power plant in Cumbria told an inquest at Whitehaven yesterday how her husband was contaminated from the fall-out in the 1957 fire at the works. Mr Joseph Corrie, of Gosforth, died last year aged 60 after suffering from bone cancer. A jury of eight brought in an open verdict.

Mrs Sheila Corrie said her husband had worked at Sellafield at various times since 1947. On the day of the 1957 fire he was working right underneath the fall-out, she said. They were told on the following Monday to wash all their clothes, but he had worked all day in his clothes. Someone told him he was contaminated, she said. Her husband had suffered terrible pain in the later stages of the illness.

Laser use to be restricted

The use of lasers for medical or surgical purposes is to be restricted by government regulations, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of State for Health, announced yesterday. He said that an item on the BBC television programme *That's Life*, showing people who had been badly burnt by lasers used to remove tattoos, had alerted him to the situation.

Under the new regulations which come into force on October 1, only a medically or dentally qualified person will be able to operate a laser, and all clinics or consulting rooms where lasers are used will have to be registered with the District Health Authority.

Title challenge goes to appeal

A former American jockey, Sir Jean Durbur, who won a court battle to keep an ancient Scottish title last month, faces an appeal by his distant English cousin, Colonel William Durbur, aged 91, against the decision.

The Court of Session in Edinburgh will consider the ruling by the Court of the Lord Lyon, King of Arms, that Sir Jean is the rightful Baron of Macdonald in Wigtonshire. Trust funds of more than £1m are said to be at stake.

11 sentenced over affray

Nine men and two girls were sentenced at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday for their part in an affray outside a fish-and-chip shop in Old Rough Lane, Kirkby, during which missiles were thrown at the police.

The judge said that the charges Dr Gee faced concerned eight patients and related to alleged abuse in the supply of drugs. He accepted an undertaking given by Mr Raymond Sears, QC, on behalf of the council, not to start the hearing before November 26.

Negligence claim on gem against Sotheby's fails

Mr John Spriggs, a businessman whose 9.4 carat diamond was stolen when an attendant at a pre-sale viewing in Sotheby's salesrooms in New Bond Street, London, handed it to a viewer and turned his back, lost his damages claim in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Spriggs, of Leicester, had alleged negligence by Sotheby's in the care of the stone, which he had hoped would realize £15,000 in a sale in July, 1977, which included jewellery belonging to Princess Margaret.

Giving judgment dismissing, with costs, Mr Spriggs' action, the Deputy Judge, Sir Douglas Frank, QC, said the risk that someone might walk off with a stone was one which could not have been reasonably foreseen to make the auctioneers liable.

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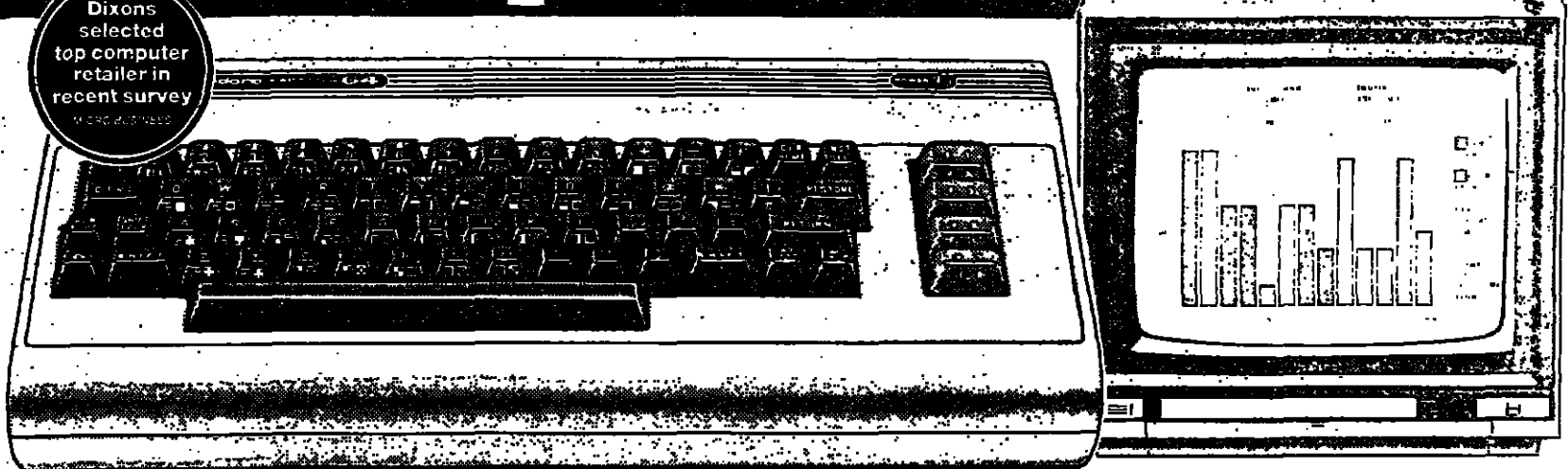
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NHS funding for regions 'should depend on extent of pay beds'

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The extent to which patients use private hospitals and pay beds should be taken into account when National Health Service funds are allocated to regions, a study funded by the Department of Health and Social Security has suggested.

The politically explosive suggestion comes from a detailed study of the private sector which shows that it no longer has an insignificant impact on the NHS. In 1981, one out of eight patients admitted for elective (non-emergency) surgery was treated privately rather than on the NHS.

There were, however, wide regional variations. More than one in five patients in two of the Thames regions were treated privately, against barely one in 20 in the Northern region.

Because one in five patients in the Thames regions are paying for treatment, the study suggests, the remaining patients who use the NHS there are getting a bigger share of NHS resources than patients in, for example, the North, where almost all use the NHS and few go privately.

The implication is that regions where patients use the private sector extensively should get less NHS money than regions where the private sector is little used.

The idea may well find favour with Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, who told a conference last month that health authorities could not ignore the extent to which private nursing homes and hospitals were used when making the case for more NHS cash.

He told the conference that at the moment allocations were made "as though the private sector did not exist". He added that while ministers had no immediate intention of changing

Imprison 999 hoax callers, JPs say

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Magistrates are urging the Home Office to introduce legislation to make it an offence to make hoax calls to the three emergency services of fire, police and ambulance.

At present the offence carries a penalty of a fine of up to £400. But a meeting of the Magistrates' Associations council has agreed that this does not reflect adequately its gravity.

In a letter to the Home Office, the association presses for the penalty to be brought into line for that with bomb hoax calls. That would mean a fine of up to £2,000 or three months' imprisonment, under Section 51 of the Criminal Law Act 1977.

Mr Geoffrey Norman, the association's secretary, said yesterday: "These calls can cause an enormous amount of trouble and expense, needlessly occupying one of the public services, which in some circumstances can be dangerous."

He added that attention should be drawn to the power magistrates have to make compensation orders in appropriate cases so that the offender would be required to make amends for the time wasted and danger caused.

The council has also agreed that motorists should not have to pay the cost of calling a doctor to conduct a blood test in drunken driving cases.

At present, during the experimental period for which the controversial breath test machine, the Intoximeter, is being monitored, blood tests are available in all district drive cases and not just marginal ones.

Mr Norman said: "At the time this experimental period was introduced, the view was that these blood tests were going to be free and we don't think it right that motorists should have to pay for the cost of the doctor being called out."

Tennis ball hailstones batter Munich, injuring 300



Shultz snub to Peking over Khmer

From Our Correspondent
Jakarta

Mr George Shultz, US Secretary of State, in a move seen as sealing Washington's approval of coordinated Japanese, South-East Asian, Australian and American approach to Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia, said yesterday that Washington would give no aid to the Khmer Rouge "whose atrocities have outraged the world".

The statement, while not new, was one of the latest communications of US policy in the region, and by rejecting the Peking-backed Khmer Rouge - the strongest military faction in the UN recognized rebel Government of Cambodia - let Hanoi know that the non-communist Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean), Japan and Australia were speaking with one voice.

Australia offered yesterday to host a conference with Vietnam, Laos and Vietnamese leaders, and on Thursday Japan offered to pay cash for a peace-keeping force should Hanoi agree to withdraw its troops and allow free elections in Cambodia.

Asean predictably declined the Australian offer.

Mr Shultz, who carefully skirted round Asean qualms about US military aid to Peking, said Washington would continue to do its part in opposing the Vietnamese occupation by lending moral, political and humanitarian support to Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Son Sann.

Significantly, Mr Shultz made no reference to Asean's willingness to include the Vietnam-backed Heng Samrin Government in future regional or international negotiations on the Cambodian problem.

● Peking: China warned Vietnam yesterday that it was ready to fight to the finish, after reporting a 10-hour battle on their border (Reuters reports).

The New China news agency said China had repulsed a Vietnamese division, backed by artillery, which had thrust into southern Yunnan province. It reported heavy fighting with the Vietnamese finally fleeing.

Mitterrand outfoxes right with referendum pledge

From Diana Geddes, Paris

President Mitterrand appears to have found a way of winning back the left's traditional image as the great defender of individual liberties and of obtaining at the same time an effective vote of confidence in the Government.

He has proposed that a vote be held in September on the issue of extending the referendum. The left will certainly vote for the referendum, despite certain misgivings by the Communists, while the right will find it hard to vote against something it has been asking for.

The Government seems to be assured of a much-needed victory, but there are evident weak spots in Mitterrand's counter-offensive which the Opposition cannot fail to exploit.

Outlining his proposals on television on Wednesday night, he made it clear it would be up to the President to decide when to call a referendum on civil liberties issues, and that he would do so only if he considered it "useful and in the interest of the country". It would also presumably be up to the President to decide whether fundamental civil liberties were at stake.

In other words, he is proposing a significant extension to the already considerable powers of a French President under the Fifth Republic. An ability to go direct to the country could be particularly useful to a President who finds himself confronted by an uncooperative Parliament in which the Opposition is in majority.

The referendum has been used only five times since the Republic, the last time being in 1972 when Britain entered the EEC.

In an attempt to appease public opinion, M. Mitterrand also announced his decision to withdraw the Government's private schools Bill, over which parliamentary proceedings have been brought to a virtual standstill, and replace it with a new Bill.

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A man appropriately dressed for July in Munich copes with the wintry scene left by a sudden hailstorm, while householders in a suburb of the city inspect damage done to their property.

Hailstones the size of tennis balls, high winds and torrential rain pounded the city on Thursday night. Police said 300 people had been injured and reported severe damage to property (AP reports).

A 54-year-old man died of a heart attack when a hailstone shattered a window in his house. Most of the injured were hit on the head by hailstones or injured by flying glass from broken windows. Car crashes blamed on the storm also caused some injuries.

The barrage of hailstones began in the evening. Within minutes, the temperature plummeted from 80°F to 60°F in central Munich as hailstones smashed windows of buildings, cars and buses and clogged parts of the city's drainage system. Aircraft at Munich airport were damaged.

● VIENNA: A heatwave in Austria has killed seven people in the past two days, Austrian newspapers said. (Reuters reports).

Temperatures in Innsbruck reached 99°F on Thursday for the first time since 1819.

Computer trailers to train staff

By Bill Johnston

W. H. Smith, the high street retail chain and one of the key suppliers of home computers in Britain, has invested £30,000 equipping two novel trailers to train its staff in microcomputers to the high level demanded by the public.

The two 30ft trailers are equipped with the models stocked by the stores: Sinclair Spectrum, BBC, Electron and the Advance, the group's business microcomputer. The trailers, which will be able to cater for 800 staff each year, are also expected to be used to demonstrate microcomputers to the public at exhibitions.

The investment is expected to be copied by others in the high street since it reflects the growing need to give buyers advice about the machines that they are purchasing. As the group is selling business machines supplied by Ferranti as well, more professional counsel is required.

Mr Ken Newman, retail manager of Smith, who pioneered the idea, said: "The trailers meet the need, which I believe we have, to train more staff. We did have a problem training all the staff selling computers. We want to reach as many staff as possible so that they are confident and knowledgeable in the products they are selling."

The trailers will tour separate areas in the North and the South taking in W. H. Smith's 30 retail districts. Last year the sale of computers contributed £28m to the company's turnover.

ITV to fill Olympics slot with light entertainment

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Commercial television believes that it can maintain its audience share without covering the Olympic Games which begin later this month.

Independent Television programme controllers met this week and decided to buy a late-night American science fiction series, *V*, and three feature films, *Seaquest*, *Outland*, *Jane Fonda's Coming Home*, and *The Amityville Horror*, to make up for the loss of the Olympics because of a union mailing dispute.

An Olympics gala concert, featuring Johnny Mathis, Barry Manilow, Jane Fonda and Andy Williams, will be screened from Los Angeles on July 28.

But the commercial network has ruled out throwing all of its Olympics resources into a full-scale ratings battle with the BBC, because it believes that there is still a large section of the viewing public which does not want to watch the Games.

The companies will lose about £3m by pulling out of the Olympics, but had planned to spend more than £5m if the coverage had gone ahead as planned.

They have decided against using the surplus £2m to win viewers away from the BBC because they think that ITV may well benefit more from its usual diet of entertainment than by running sport.

Mr Colin Shaw, the director of programme planning for the Independent Television Com-

panies Association, said: "I think we took the view that the Olympics were there and, with the two channels, we were encouraged by the IBA to have coverage on both. That is no longer the option."

"Some of the money that has been saved will be used on programming, but much of the Olympics was due in morning or later afternoon periods when we are not spending large sums of money normally. I don't think our peak time programmes will reflect the cancellation very much."

An executive of Young and Rubicam, one of the leading television advertising agencies, predicted that the ITV network would be financially better off by pulling out of the Olympics. Mr Jim Marshall, associate media director with the agency, said: "I don't think it will reduce ITV's audience share. My guess is that the ITV companies are probably not that unhappy that they got into these union problems and could use them as a reason to drop the coverage, which would have been pretty costly."

"They would probably have got a lower audience than with entertainment programmes, and Olympic coverage during peak hours was very unattractive to the advertiser."

The timing of the Olympics meant that the companies' financial outlay could not possibly be recouped in terms of advertising revenue. Most of the coverage was at times when air time was "very cheap indeed".

Hijacker executed in Kabul

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Islamabad (AFP) - Salimullah Tipu, who hijacked a Pakistan International Airlines plane to Afghanistan in March 1981 and later surrendered to Syrian authorities after keeping 100 passengers hostage for 13 days, was executed in Kabul, Radio Kabul announced.

Mr Tipu, a member of the al-Zulfikar extremist group formed by the son of the hanged former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, hijacked the plane on a domestic Karachi-Peshawar flight.

Kabul radio said that Salimullah Tipu had returned to Kabul secretly two years after the hijacking and the broadcast alleged that he had recently killed a tribal leader, Parvez Shinwari. A revolutionary court had tried him for murder.

Mobutu visit and appeal for aid embarrass Belgians

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Under cover of a carefully planned security operation President Mobutu of Zaire has been making his first official working visit to Belgium for five years. He has been seeking money and credit from his country's former colonial rulers while being made very aware that his record on human rights is making his case for help very difficult.

Although the meeting was long overdue and important it has been embarrassing for both sides.

A small group of human rights protesters, mostly white, have managed to demonstrate almost everywhere that the President has been seen publicly since he arrived in Brussels last Wednesday. On one occasion police had to step in when a fight broke out between them

and supporters of the President.

Aware of the fierce opposition to his 20-year-old regime, the Belgian authorities took the precaution of giving a "holiday" in the Ardennes to three of his political opponents, who have been living in Brussels as political refugees, for the duration of the five-day visit.

One of them, Mr Makabu Ma Kalambay, insisted on being moved to a different, more secret hotel after a newspaper had published an anonymous mid-night call and then became terrified after claiming he had seen four coloured men getting out of a car at 3.30 am.

Despite the human rights issue, President Mobutu was given the fullest of programmes to meet and negotiate with key people in the Government and in Business. He also was

granted an audience with King Baudouin, thus putting an official seal of approval on the visit.

In the course of talks with Mr Wilfried Martens, the Prime Minister, and senior members of the Belgian Government, President Mobutu was seeking guaranteed credit increase for the national bank from £1,300m to £2,000m. He was also seeking Government loans in excess of the current level of around £530m.

There was also talk of closer collaboration between Sabena and Air Zaire as well as the possible electrification of the main railway line between Kinshasa and Matadi. These issues will be discussed again during the regular Belgian-Zairean joint committee which is due to meet next week.

IRA 'training Thai terrorists'

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Communists in - and near - Bangkok. Six of those arrested were said to be members of the party's central committee.

The supreme military commander, General Arthit Kamlang-Ek said there was strong evidence that those arrested had been engaged in subversive activities. Some of them had made "audacious" statements to newspapers advocating "subversive ideas".

One of the detainees is the editor of a daily newspaper in Bangkok, another is a well-

known university don and son of a former deputy Prime Minister.

At the time of the arrests police seized large quantities of "communist propaganda" and a large sum of money. Most of those arrested were intellectuals who joined the communist insurgency in remote rural areas after the Thai military seized power eight years ago.

Thousands of Communists have left the party in the past year; most have been allowed to go free without facing charges.

Russia expels Japanese accused of espionage

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Moscow (Reuters) - The Soviet Union yesterday accused a visiting Japanese businessman of espionage and expelled him, saying he had photographed defence establishments.

Tass said Mr Takashi Kurayama had photographed enterprises, bridges, airfields, military equipment and "other facilities of interest to foreign special services" during trips to the Soviet Union.

The Japanese Embassy said it

had refused to accept a formal protest which, Tass said, had been lodged by the Soviet Union.

The deputy chief of the Japanese mission, Mr Minoru Tambo, told the Soviet Foreign Ministry he did not have full details of the case.

Tass said Mr Kurayama was detained by the KGB Security Forces at the airport of the Ukrainian city of Khmelnytsky as he was about to fly to Moscow.

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Pit pension fund to resume investment

By Bill Johnston

National Coal Board representatives of the mine-workers' pension scheme, which daily invests funds totalling more than £1m, were given leave in the High Court in London yesterday to resume their investment programme, despite the National Union of Mineworkers' refusal to appoint nominees to the management committee.

Mr Justice Mervyn Davies granted a temporary order to the five coal board trustees allowing them to form their own quorum of four members until the union side can be represented before the court next Thursday.

Normally, a quorum of the scheme's management committee consists of two members from the coal board and two from the union.

Until the next hearing the committee's powers will be limited to making investments in line with the 1982 Investment Strategy and Business Plan, which it adopted last May. Mr Morris, QC, for the board's trustees, told the judge that the application arose from decisions taken at the NUM's Sheffield conference this week.

The union passed a resolution that it would not appoint further trustees "unless and until" the indemnity clause in the fund's rules was redrafted.

Staff protest as Howe visits GCHQ

By Bill Johnston

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, was met by demonstrating staff when he visited the Government's communications headquarters in Cheltenham yesterday.

He was accompanied by Mr Peter Marychurch, director of the centre.

Twenty placard-carrying and shouting protesters were at the main gate when Mr Howe arrived. They were objecting to the ban on trade union membership at the complex.

No official reason has been given publicly for Sir Geoffrey's visit. It is less than six months since the Government, through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, banned trade union membership for the 7,000 employees of the main Cheltenham base and its outstations in Britain and elsewhere.

The demonstration was organized by the GCHQ Trade Union.

The group maintains that up to 130 civil servants at GCHQ have refused to sign away their union rights.

Mr Ralph Groves, a full-time trade union officer representing the Council of Civil Service Unions, which is co-ordinating the campaign claimed yesterday that Sir Geoffrey's visit was to learn more about the formation of a staff association at the base.

Mirror deal not to go to minister

By Bill Johnston

The acquisition of Mirror Newspapers Ltd by Pergamon Press Ltd does not involve the transfer of a newspaper to a newspaper proprietor and does not, therefore, require the consent of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Reporting this to the Commons, Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, said that the acquisition would fall for consideration under the general merger provisions of the Fair Trading Act.

Several Labour MPs expressed misgivings about the acquisition and Mr Peter Shore, Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, called for a major review and strengthening of legislation covering changes of newspaper ownership.

Mr Shore asked whether the Director General of Fair Trading had been consulted and what advice had been received from him.

In the case of newspapers (he said), whose editorial independence and wide spectrum of opinion are very much in the national interest, it is undesirable that proprietors should be able to obtain total control without enforceable guarantees and restraint.

In the light of recent experience of Mr Murdoch's dismissal of the editor of *The Times* and Mr

Tiny Rowland's intimidation of the editor of *The Observer*, and now the change at the *Mirror* group, has not the time for a major review and strengthening of legislation in this area?

Mr Baker: The Secretary of State had yet to receive the advice of the Director General of Fair Trading on merger policy and any decision will be made in the light of that.

The minister's consent is not required on newspaper grounds, so conditions of consent do not arise.

I have noticed that Mr Maxwell has given certain undertakings to the Read Group concerning future editorial policy of the group and also on the question of employment.

No further details were given but the officials said the Communists had also sought support from the Soviet Union, Vietnam and Laos. These disclosures follow the arrest in the past 10 days of 21 suspected

Members of Thailand's outlawed Communist Party have been in contact with representatives of the IRA, according to Thai Security officials, who said the two sides had met in England to discuss IRA support for the training of Thai Communist forces in urban terrorism.

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£1m more on anti-drug services

By Bill Johnston

The Government is to provide at least a further £1m for initiatives to improve services for the millions of drug addicts, Mr John Patten, Under Secretary of State for Health, announced in the Commons.

Winding up a debate on drug abuse, he said that previously the Government had made £6m available in local initiatives and already some 30 projects had been approved throughout the country.

When Labour MPs shouted that the Government was desirous, Mr Patten said that the evidence of the treatment drug misusers could gain in clinics demonstrated that less than a third of them five years after treatment were still abstaining from drugs.

Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, opening the debate said in a few days' time a British police officer was to go to Pakistan to advise on appropriate methods to assist in combating drug trafficking through Karachi airport.

There was evidence, he said, that major criminals were turning to drug trafficking because of the easy profits to be made out of the misery of addiction.

In the United Kingdom the total number of addicts known to the Home Office during 1983 was 10,270, an increase of nearly 30 per

cent. Within that total there were 4,200 new addicts, a 50 per cent increase compared to the previous year. Recent research suggested these new recruits represented only one fifth of those dependent on opiates drugs.

There was a significant increase in drug misuse among teenagers. The growing popularity of heroin among young people was particularly alarming. Heroin was entering the country in alarming quantities.

The Government alone could not resolve the problem. We have to engage the enthusiasm of the whole community (he said).

The principal elements of the Government strategy included action to reduce the supply of illicit drugs from abroad, tighter controls on drugs produced and supplied in this country, effective policing, enhancement of the deterrent effects of the law, and effective programmes to treat and rehabilitate addicts and to discourage people from experimenting with drugs.

Much of the heroin reaching Britain came from Pakistan, and a senior British customs officer was now stationed permanently in Karachi to assist with liaison and intelligence. The posting had already more than proved its worth.

Fillip for Likud as polls show Labour's lead begins to slip

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

For the first time since campaigning began for Israel's general election, the opinion polls have shown a narrowing in the substantial lead built up by Likud over the ruling right-wing Labour coalition.

With just over a week to go the new trend, shown by both independent polls published yesterday will give a much-needed boost to the morale of the Likud, which has been trailing badly and sorely missing the appeal of its former leader, Mr Menachem Begin.

The Likud, campaigning mainly on its claim of Israel's sweeping rights to the whole of the occupied West Bank, has received another fillip with the disclosure that Mr Begin has at last broken his electoral scabbard and will contribute 25,000 shekels (about £75) to the party's depleted funds.

The former Prime Minister told Israel radio that he was aware that his contribution was very small but hoped it would do some good. Asked on Thursday if he planned to appeal to the public on the Likud's behalf, Mr Begin replied: "Ten days are left to polling day and we shall see."

According to one poll in the

afternoon paper *Yediot Aharanot*, Labour has dropped from a potential 53 seats to 50 over the past 10 days, while the Likud has picked up three and now stands to win 41 of the 120 Knesset seats, as compared with 38 at the previous poll.

The paper noted that, with these results, Labour could form a coalition only with the agreement of the Ratzah Communist Party, which this week secured the blessing of Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, while the Likud could succeed in its bid for government. But it also pointed out that 26 per cent of voters remain undecided and in the past there have tended to go towards the Likud.

A similar drop in Labour's early popularity was shown in a Smith Research Centre poll published in yesterday's *Jerusalem Post*. But this indicated that much of Labour's lost support had gone to various smaller parties rather than the Likud, which was shown moving up from 28 per cent of the vote in June to 29.5 per cent, compared with Labour's 39.5 per cent, down from 44 per cent.

America's women pin hopes on Ferraro

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Mr Walter Mondale, choosing Mrs Geraldine Ferraro as his Democratic running mate, has unofficially declared 1984 as the year of women in American politics.

As recently as last week, few political observers believed Mr Mondale would have the courage to make history by selecting the first woman who will undoubtedly be nominated for Vice-President from a leading political party.

The Democrats will raise expectations by talking about a woman but in the end they will lack the courage to choose one, predicted Mr Ed Rollins, Republican director of President Reagan's reelection campaign.

Now that the die is cast, the stakes for American women are high. It has been 64 years since they won the right to vote, but during that time few have participated so the role of US politics and never have women exercised their majority power to vote as a block.

There only 22 women serving at present in the House of Representatives and two in the Senate - Mrs Nancy Kassebaum of Kansas and Mrs Paula Hawkins of Florida, both Republicans. Only eight women have served in the President's Cabinet, and most have been recent appointees. The first, Frances Perkins, was Secretary of Labour under President



Ready for a political battle of the sexes: President Reagan dons a ranger's hat while touring a Kentucky national park, and Mrs Geraldine Ferraro gets a hug of congratulations from her husband.

Franklin Roosevelt. Almost a decade passed before a second woman was named, and 20 years before a third was selected.

But this year could be the beginning of an important change. Political analysts say that not only will much depend on the performance of Mrs Ferraro, the plucky Congresswoman from Queens, but also on the emerging "gender gap" among voters which could transform women into a powerful political force.

A veteran Republican strategist, Mr Stuart Spencer, said: "For years you could predict voting patterns on what men were going to do. You cannot

any more. Women are not listening to men. It's a reflection of their place in the workforce, that more of them are on their own, and of the increased rights they have."

For this reason, both parties will give careful attention to women's issues in their official platforms to be completed at the conventions.

Analysts from both political parties have estimated that this year there could be as many as six million more women than men casting their votes in November - enough to make a difference. But will it?

Studies by two Harvard professors, Miss Ethel Klein and Miss Carol Gilligan, indi-

cate that, although women are more independent, they continue to take political decisions privately and have not yet identified themselves as a powerful group.

All of this could change with the right spokeswoman and the right set of issues. "Mrs Ferraro will be a test of how voters rate a candidate's sex - pro or con - in selecting a candidate", one political analyst said.

Initially the consensus appears to be that not only will she add excitement to the Mondale campaign but that she will close the door once and for all on the outdated idea that a woman cannot do the job.

As aggressive and straightforward as Mr Mondale is circumspect, Mrs Ferraro gets high marks from party veterans. She is thought to be tough yet feminine, an astute reader of the political system, a formidable campaigner. "I cannot tell you how much I am loving all of this", she told a group of enthusiastic constituents last week.

There has been a threefold increase since 1971 in the number of women serving in state legislatures and a tenfold increase in the number of female mayors heading cities with populations of more than 30,000. They are the ones for whom Mrs Ferraro has opened an important door.

Package to ease US air traffic delays

New York (NYT) - High-level US Government and aviation industry officials have completed a package of recommendations to alleviate the huge increase in air traffic delays in the United States.

There were about 189,473 delays out of about four million flights in the first six months of 1984. This is an increase of 73 per cent over the total for the same period last year.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said total flight operations for the 1984 period were up about 8 per cent over the six months that ended on June 30, 1983, a little more than a month before the air traffic controllers went on strike.

The proposals were a result of three days of deliberations at the request of the FAA.

Proposals being given prime consideration would call for such steps as: A modest increase in airlines circling near destination airports and a decrease in absorbing delays by holding aircraft on the ground at takeoff terminals; more stringent measures against airlines and private operators that exceeded peak-hour quotas for landing at five high-density airports; a modest reduction in criteria for spacing between aircraft; limited restructuring of air traffic routes; airline schedule revisions that would reduce rush-hour bunching; measures to increase the number of authorized controllers.

Lagos pressure for break with Britain

From Eddie Iroh in Lagos and Henry Stanhope in London

Mr Hamilton Whyte, the British High Commissioner in Lagos, was summoned to the External Affairs Ministry yesterday to be formally notified that the Nigerian Government wanted two British diplomats to leave.

In London the Home Office disclosed that Alhaji Umaru Dikko, the former Nigerian minister rescued from a kidnapping attempt last week, was recently given leave to remain in Britain for a further six months.

The expelled diplomats are Mr John Harrison, a councillor, and Mr Stewart Evans, an attaché. Their ranks correspond to those of the Nigerian diplomats expelled by Britain on Thursday.

Yesterday morning the government-owned *New Nigerian* newspaper urged Nigeria to break off diplomatic relations with Britain without further notice. It accused Britain of hypocrisy in condoning Mr Dikko's "terrorist intentions".

towards the Nigerian Government.

The newspaper's call increases the pressure on the Nigerian government to reciprocate every move made by Britain. Among those who have supported a break is the former Nigerian head of state, General Olusegun Obasanjo, who said: "This is colonial mentality to think that we cannot live without Britain."

A brief Foreign Office statement described the expulsions as "totally without justification". The two men had not been implicated in any criminal acts and their expulsion was "clearly a case of tit-for-tat", was to be regretted.

But there the matter rests, and there was no indication last night that the Nigerians were going to reciprocate to the extent of expelling Mr Whyte himself.

Nor was there any news of an official application from Lagos for the extradition of Mr Dikko.

Brazilians fear the rising dollar

From Patrick Knight, Sao Paulo

Lady Young, the British Minister of State responsible for Latin American affairs, who is on a week's official visit to Brazil, said that the British Government is impressed with the courageous and determined way in which the Brazilian Government and people are working to overcome their difficulties. The firm measures taken by Brazil were beginning to produce results, she said.

There is concern in Brazil that the continued rise in the strength of the dollar will prejudice Brazil's exports to countries other than the United States, and threaten the progress which has been made in achieving a positive trade balance.

This year, a third of Brazil's exports will go to the United States, almost twice those of previous years.

There is also increasing concern that the inflation rate, now creeping up to the 10 per cent a month level again, will not fall while Brazil continues to devalue frequently.

Iraq claims hits on Gulf ships

Baghdad (Reuters) - Iraq said its fighter planes hit two "large naval targets" south of the Iranian oil terminal of Kharg Island in the Gulf yesterday. The Iraqis often use the term to refer to oil tankers.

An Iraqi military spokesman said on Baghdad radio that the two targets were "directly and effectively hit", the first at 3.00 pm local time (1200 BST) and the second at 3.04 pm.

"By these attacks we reiterate our determination to continue our blockade of the Iranian Kharg Island and other Iranian ports, as well as hitting any naval target that approaches the prohibited war zone", he said.

OSLO: Shipbrokers in Norway said yesterday they had no reports of attacks on shipping in the Gulf, and some said they doubted Iraq's claim (Reuters reports).

The brokers said they were several Norwegian tankers in the area south of Kharg Island and shipowners had contacted their vessels after the Iraqi statement. "They all said there was no activity in the area and all their vessels were safe", one broker said.

Drug racketeers offer Colombian peace deal

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogota

Colombia's "drug war" has taken a bizarre turn with a secret meeting between the Attorney-General and leading drug racketeers who presented him with a letter to President Belisario Betancur. Cuatrecasas outlining their proposals for a peace agreement.

The brazenness of the racketeers' overtures, not to mention the flowery, pompous and patriotic language in which the six-page document is written, took the nation's breath away.

At the same time it aroused widespread outrage in view of the April 30 assassination in Bogota of Señor Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, the Justice Minister, who had waged a courageous campaign - which assuredly cost him his life - against the cocaine and marijuana racketeers. The meeting in Panama was not at the initiative of the Betancur Administration but of former President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, who during a private visit to Panama City was contacted by leading racketeers

who had fled from Colombia following Señor Lara's murder. When Señor Carlos Jimenez Gomez, the Attorney-General, turned up on official business a few days later, Señor Lopez apparently persuaded him to meet the racketeers.

They volunteered, among other things, to dismantle all cocaine-processing laboratories, return to legitimate business and transfer their fortunes from foreign banks for investment in the Colombian economy. In return, they sought assurances that if they came back to live in Colombia they would not be subject to extradition proceedings to the United States.

The meeting has been roundly condemned by Colombia's leading political parties, the church, and the press, and by the Panamanian Government. There is, as yet, no evidence that President Betancur has entertained the racketeers' proposals.

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Solidarity infiltrates court at start of KOR dissidents' trial

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

International jurists criticize Warsaw

His coat smudged with rain, Mr. Lech Walesa, the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, leant against the doorpost of the Warsaw military court and told the policemen: "I'm not going to leave. I'll put up a tent here if necessary - those are my friends in there."

Inside, his friends - the four members of the KOR group who acted as Solidarity advisers in the union's heyday - were on trial, accused of preparing to overthrow the state with force, charges that carry a 10-year jail term.

It began as it will no doubt continue, with the authorities barring all observers, all foreign reporters and all but six relatives and the fiancée of Mr Adam Michnik, one of the key defendants. The courtroom has only seven benches, barely enough to accommodate the nine defence counsel, the prosecution and the tribunal, which comprises three Army officers.

The defendants - the others are Jacek Kuron, Henryk Wujek and Zbigniew Romaszewski - also made clear that this trial will be a political battlefield.

A barrage of objections and motions from the defence counsel greeted the tribunal and the court was not even able to present the 6,000-word indictment until several hours into the trial. Friends saw the

search, but expressed the hope that the transmitter would disappear at the next break.

Hopes of a quick adjournment were dashed. The trial will resume on Wednesday, with Mr Kuron starting his testimony "with respect to your age and standing in the KOR movement," said the colonel who heads the tribunal. "And as a mark of the amount of time I've done," replied Mr Kuron, aged 50, who has served nine years in jail during his career.

That the trial will continue seems to indicate that the KOR prisoners will not benefit from an amnesty expected on July 22. But there is, until the last moment, still a chance that the trial will be given up.

All the leading figures of the Solidarity struggle mingled outside the court, smoking and exchanging gossip. Some had not met since martial law was imposed by General Jaruzelski in 1981.

The grand old man of the East European dissident movement, the 96-year-old economist, Edward Lipinski, disappeared from view as a dozen of his colleagues from KOR ducked and weaved through the television crews. The only priest in KOR, Father Jan Zieja, patrolled the courtyard, stroking his long grey beard.

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No entry: Mr Walesa is mobbed after police barred him from the court.

Howe to visit Hongkong and China as fears grow

Sir Geoffrey Howe is flying to Hongkong and Peking in 10 days time, as concern grows among Hongkong's 5.3 million people over their future under Chinese rule. (Henry Stambrook writes)

The Foreign Secretary, who will be making his second visit

in three months, will be in Hongkong on July 26-27, Peking on July 27-31 and Hongkong again July 31-August 1.

But the focal point will be his talks in Peking, with Mr Wu Xuequan, a state councillor, and other Chinese leaders, only

a few weeks before the September deadline for a draft agreement.

Sir Geoffrey, who will be hard on the heels of his junior minister, Mr Richard Luce, already in Hongkong, has made clear that much work remains

Chile trade to Falklands angers Argentina

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Argentina has formally protested to Chile over reports that Chilean merchants are shipping supplies to the Falkland Islands, just as the two countries are nearing a solution to their own century-old border dispute in the Beagle Channel.

An Argentine Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Chile's Ambassador in Buenos Aires was given the protest on Thursday afternoon.

He said the Chilean action "breaks with Latin American solidarity" and could harm negotiations at the Vatican over the Beagle Channel dispute. The Chilean embassy denied any formal protest had been made.

Meanwhile the military court trying nine former Argentine junta members on charges of gross human rights violations has been granted an extended deadline to finish its work by the civilian Federal Court of Appeals. The June 28 deadline has been extended by 90 days.

Guards lose their jobs because of intruder

Athens (AP) - Two senior police officers were dismissed from the personal corps of bodyguards of Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister, after an unemployed man walked past several police and on to a balcony at the Papandreu family home here, a police spokesman said.

He added that Lieutenant Colonel Haralambos Fakas and Major Marolis Chourdakis were transferred to office duties. The intruder, who shouted from the balcony, was eventually arrested.

Duarte mission to Europe

San Salvador - President Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador is to travel to France, West Germany and Belgium next week to seek economic aid from the European Economic Community.

He said he would demonstrate in Europe that his government is "socially sensitive, politically legitimate and has popular support."

Duke's visit on

Ottawa (Reuters) - Although the Queen's visit to Canada was called off because of a snap summer election, the Duke of Edinburgh is still coming next week to fulfil two engagements.

Mines closed

Taipei (AP) - The government ordered 70 of Taiwan's 124 coal mines shut down they they failed safety checks ordered in the wake of the country's worst mine disaster at Mei-shan which has already claimed 101 lives.

Safety first

Rotterdam (AP) - The Rotterdam Chess Club has ruled out taking part in the Moscow semi-finals of the European Cup competition to protect one of its members, Viktor Korchunov, the Soviet defector. "If he goes he may never come back," a club spokesman said.

Petra defiant



Petra Kelly, a leading figure in the rise of West Germany's Greens party, who announced she will not run for reelection to Parliament. She said she will not obey a party directive to give up her seat before then to another Greens nominee.

Unita losses

Lisbon (AFP) - Angolan government troops killed 183 Unita rebels during operations last month, the Angolan news agency reported. It said 113 guerrillas were killed in a single operation near Sandanda, in Mexico province as they were preparing to attack a passenger train.

Age of the train

Bonn (Reuters) - West Germany, Belgium and France are to study plans for a high-speed rail link between Paris, Brussels and Cologne that could cut journey times in the 1990s from five hours to under two.

Help for writer

Rome (AP) - The City Council has set aside 20 million lire (about £9,000) to help meet the hospital expenses of the ailing writer, Elsa Morante who is 65. It acted after appeals by Signora Morante's estranged husband, Alberto Moravia, the author, and President Pertini.

Pilot killed

Rotenburg, West Germany (AFP) - An RAF Lightning aircraft crashed near here in Lower Saxony, killing the pilot.

Lebanon fighting rages between Syria's allies

Beirut (AFP) - Heavy fighting over the future of north Lebanon raged yesterday near Tripoli, the regional capital, between supporters of wider Syrian rule and the militia of the local Christian warlord, former President Suleiman Franjeh.

The fighting flared up after a quarrel on Wednesday between men of Mr Franjeh's Marada militia and the Syrian National Social Party, two formerly allied opposition groups. Fifteen people have been killed and 35 wounded, according to a provisional count from Tripoli hospitals, and both sides claim to be holding several dozen hostages, according to reports reaching here. Two factories and scores of homes have been destroyed.

Fighting is concentrated mainly on the villages of

Amyun, controlled by the SNSP, and Dedde, where its combatants are besieging a television station run by Mr Franjeh's men. Several other villages in the Kura region, miles south of Tripoli, have been caught up in artillery exchanges.

The area is theoretically under Syrian Army control, but the militia are reported to have set up roadblocks on the coast road into Tripoli.

Attempts to mediate in the fighting have failed. Syria is concerned at the deterioration of the situation. President Assad is regarded as a personal friend of Mr Franjeh, but Syria is also on good terms with the National Social Party, which advocates union between Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and

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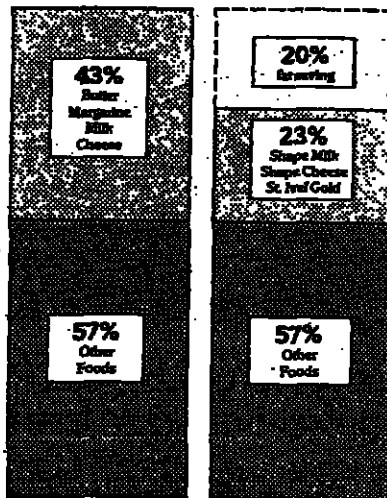


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THE ARTS

Theatre

Tricky business in the ring and outside

The Third and Final Round

Half Moon

Young Steven's ringside audience in Johnnie Quarell's new play is a bit different from the one facing Joey Bonaparte in *Golden Boy*, as different as a Mile End boxing club is from Madison Square Garden. Out there are his father Eddie, up on a half-million fraud charge, the club chairman Hurst, bidding fair to be a JP, and sundry comics, journalists, and other small fry, with one eye on the fight and the other on the fixing. Hurst, who is down to serve on Eddie's jury, is holding the local council to ransom over some land they want from him; however, when Eddie is tipped off about a squalid little incident involving an under-age girl, he is held to ransom himself. With no Queensberry rules covering tussles like this, the squalid manoeuvres that follow are as fascinating as anything inside a ring. If a play

like *Trafalgar* sweeps the country, this one certainly deserves to. Danny Hiller (who actually directed *Tanz*) honours it with a production that is forceful, wildly funny, and funny - sometimes too fast for the dodgy acoustics in the Half Moon's latest layout. Mark Salkind's design gives us the ring, a fully stocked bar usable in the interval, a reserved ringside table conspicuously grabbed by Eddie, and a pile of raffle prizes (real tickets, 20p each), half of which get mysteriously nicked.

As the shark who is "now going straight, in a corker kind of way", Gary Whelan gives an awesomely convincing picture of a man who gets his own way with a backhand here, a threat there, a bit of GBH - it's all the same to him. His bullying bickering with his wife are grim to watch. Characters point the moral, a shade improbably, at times. Eddie's young in-laws, who incur his wrath for still feeling human affection, mention a



Coarse referee (John Barton) and cheeky con-man (Alan Cody).

"horrible feeling of panic and loneliness" and claim "We're all living a big lie". Sexually assaulted in the street after walking out in a rage, Thorns progresses from quiet despair to terrible dignity, but the connection between differ-

ent kinds of male violence is pressed a bit hard. Still, it remains a terrifically enjoyable, compelling evening, not least for the rich supporting cast. Alec Lindsay's pompously lascivious chairman, John Barton's cheerfully coarse

referee, Duncan Faber as a sleekly toadying hack, Alan Cody ceaselessly flogging caches of cheap shirts and deodorants. The fights themselves, done for real, are a thrilling bonus.

Anthony Masters

Diplomacy and the droll world of parlourmaids

Arriving in the West End by courtesy of British Airways, this Windsor Theatre revival of William Douglas Home's 1966 comedy could figure on a brochure for vertical tourism. Not only does it wait the spectator into a five-star Roman apartment, it affords views of the Spanish Steps and the Appian Way through a stoutly British pair of French windows. It also takes you back to the half-forgotten world of droll parlourmaids, ingenues who mark every utterance with a bend of the waist, and elders and betters for whom nobody exists apart from their women-folk and old Oxbridge cronies.

As they also happen to be Foreign Office top brass, this view may well be true to life. But, as always with this author, any impulse to hold grace and favour up to ridicule stops short

always more zealous in the pursuit of truth, warily circling each other, almost coming to the point of confession and grateful delaying it when the telephone rings, and playing every tactical advantage up to the limits of wrathful indignation and smug self-righteousness. Jan Butlin's production is worth seeing for the sake of Derek Nimmo and Geoffrey Palmer's performance of this game. Jointly they share the power to play embarrassment without embarrassing the spectator, and the partnership between Mr Nimmo's stiff-necked sourpuss Lionel and Mr Palmer's wary underling, responding to danger with a strangled falsetto, bubbles away with continuous comic invention. Never more so than when Mr Palmer attributes

Shelia's paternity to a distant ambassador and improvises a Moscow phone call, complete with bleeps and long-distance interference, to back up the lie. The upshot of all the evasion is a happy ending asserting that honesty is the best policy; and diplomacy is best reserved for ambassadorial dinner parties.

The price of this comic centre is a periphery that is mechanical even by routine light comedy standards. Creaking exposition, insipid lovers, laborious farcical business, sub-epigrammatic dialogue - all the fossilized elements are on view. I congratulate Colette Gleeson and Moira Lister on their handling of an obligatory ladies' drunk scene which fell with less than its deserved full thud.

Irving Wardle

Opera

Rescued, after 300 years at sea

Justino Bishop Otter College, Chichester

Legrenzi's *Giustino* has had to wait 300 years for a modern revival, but in its time it was one of the most frequently performed of all baroque operas. Venice saw it first, in 1683, and it was then staged in Naples, Milan, Genoa, Rome, Verona, Modena and Vienna over the following 15 years: an extraordinary record.

Niccolò Beregan's libretto was used by Albinoni, Vivaldi and Handel (whose setting the Handel Opera Society recently revived). Without knowing all Legrenzi's operas, it is difficult to say why this one should have been so popular, but it is certainly a winning, amusing, inventive piece deserving of a more sophisticated staging than Opera 70's spirited but modest effort.

The operas of Legrenzi and his contemporaries are lost in a sort of operatic Bermuda triangle between those of Monteverdi/Cavalli and those of Vivaldi/Handel. The form seems like late Cavalli: lively declamation moving swiftly from recitative to short-breathed arias, often in triple time, with modest instrumental forces. But the music sounds like early Handel, for Legrenzi's splendidly shapely writing is always logical in its tonal direction and clear in harmonic outline. The word-setting is generally syllabic but will suddenly flower in long melismas on climactic words.

Legrenzi was maestro di cappella at St Mark's Venice, where he wrote instrumental works of considerable inventi-

veness. His writing for the opera orchestra is appropriately less extravagant, but there is a single trumpet which flares impressively with the five-part string band, creating sounds that anticipate those of Handel's *Rinaldo*. *Justino* (the opera was played in an English translation by Eric Barton and Michael Waite, who also edited the score) was well cast in the main roles, with Elaine Padmore as a sturdy, noble Anastasio (who has two lovely wistful arias and several martial ones including the final triumphant triple-time number) and Ann-Cristin Ryberg as a flexible, warm Ariadne (though her diction was none too clear). Justino, himself, ploughman made emperor through a succession of doughty deeds, was Margaret Medlyn, ardent and well-focused; he was pursued by Glenys Groves's Euphemia, whose part, bright singing brought a modern touch to the proceedings; among the many others, I especially liked Robert Charvart's crisp, ready alto as Andronico.

On a tiny stage Clive Scrimshaw's production was quite resourceful, with sea monsters bellowing electronically through the PA system, a vast elephant, and various fleet-footed gods and cupids flitting around. Anna Semura's designs, crudely realized, were exactly the right sort of thing. Timothy Dean, who conducted, drove the score with great energy and nicely overlapped recitative and air; the arias with continuo went best, with sprightly harpsichords and lutes; it was more difficult to forgive the vagueness of the violins.

Nicholas Kenyon

RAM / Cleobury / Rattle

Royal Academy of Music

The Jack Lyons Theatre in Marylebone Road has for several years been the place to find a good, out-of-the-way night at the opera. The Royal Academy's Opera Class continues to provide some of the most consistently stimulating and well-sung student productions in London. Some of the singers whose names seem to travel so quickly to the cast lists of English National Opera and Glyndebourne gathered together on Thursday in the Dukes Hall next door to celebrate with current students the retirement of the academy's director of opera, John Street.

The real vocal interest of the evening lay in the extracts from *Figaro* and *L'elisir d'amore*. Philip Ellis, academy student, got things off to a cracking start with his brilliant, nicely detailed account of the Overture, before passing on the baton to

Nicholas Cleobury: the closing scene of Act 2 revealed a Count worth looking out for in David Barrell. Mr Cleobury's tendency to unyielding tempi kept a new young cast on its toes in the Act 1 duet, trio and finale of *L'elisir*; but these were singers less likely to be daunted. Peter Brander, whose musically tenor has distinguished earlier stage performances, engaged instantly and fully with both score and audience from the first notes of Nemorino's recitative, though both he and Lynne Davies's spunky but as yet inadequately polished Adina could do with a firmer hand, a keener ear in stylistic coaching. The Opera Orchestra, under Simon Rattle, who contributed much to the Opera Class when he was a student, played the Vaughan Williams *Serenade to Music* as if it were their favourite work although the solo voices were less successful; and their Fauré *Pavane* at *Médiane* was quite the most mature and complete performance of the evening.

Hilary Finch

● Gerald Scarfe, the cartoonist, will be making his debut as a designer in ENO's production of *Orpheus in the Underworld*. The production opens with two previews on October 24 and 27. A new English version of *Orpheus in the Underworld* has been prepared by Snoo Wilson, the playwright, with David Pountney, the producer of the Opera. Conducting will be shared by Mark Elder, Simon Joly, and Victor Morris, and the cast for October and November includes Terry Jenkins (Orpheus), Nan Christie (Eurydice), Derek Hammond-Stroud (Jupiter) and Felicity Palmer.

● English National Opera's 1984/85 season will include a further new production, the British premiere of Philip Glass's *Akhmatov*. Produced by David Freeman, Akhmatov will be a joint production with Houston Grand Opera (where it is to be seen in October) and New York City Opera (opening in November). The ENO staging opens in June, 1985. It will be conducted by Paul Daniel.

Radio

Unsound soundings

The present series of Soundings (Radio 4, Sundays; series editor, John Newbury) made a memorable but unhappy start. But in April, you may remember, the Prince of Wales was persuaded to the microphone for 45 minutes and invited to respond to comments on the present state of things from, amongst others, the jobless, and the lonely and the perplexed, recorded up and down the country by Ted Harrison, who also presided in the studio.

As we went along, I found myself framing my own responses and discovering that they were either reverberant platitudes or a total loss for words. In the main, it seemed to me, the royal responses followed suit - except, of course, that when you are being interviewed on radio and find yourself lost for words, you still have to say something. Since then, except when it went with Billy Graham to Sunderland (see this column, June 2), *Soundings* has limited itself to half hour sessions, usually in the form of a short documentary, discussion or conversation. It has ranged quite wide - to Poland and the Catholic University of Dubna, to Brazil and a bit of liberation theology, to Butetown in the wilds of Cardiff; it has talked about being unemployed and has brought together an American nun and a Russian Baptist Pastor.

In my hearing it has mercifully not quite fulfilled the awful threat contained in its own billing to "take a current issue and sound out its moral and religious implications": the implications, moral and religious, have been there, but it has been up to the listeners to infer them if they choose.

At the same time this whole series, which is a major item in the output of Religious Broadcasting, has done very little to distinguish itself from a lot of other pretty routine stuff. If you look for the capacity to get a grip on your attention and the sharpness which marks out *File on 4* - and did so all the more when it too was only 30 minutes long - you will not find them in *Soundings*. If you want the sense of people coping with their lives, facing their own demons and perplexities (as provided by *In the Psychiatrist's Chair* or *At the End of my Tether*) you won't find them here either.

Years ago, when Roy Trevi-vian was part of Religious Broadcasting, he was the moving spirit behind a series called *Subject for Sunday* - an unpromising title concealing a programme in which unexpected and sometimes startling things took place. It had its off-days and it made its blunders, but you knew it was around. If *Soundings* went off the air, would anybody notice? What it needs is a touch of the Trevivians.

As happens quite often, it was a play which provided one of those experiences which ought to be in the parish of religion, but very rarely is. In *Mathy Beacon* (Radio 4, June 9; director, Martin Jenkins), the late Giles Cooper succeeded more nearly than he ever did in the working of a myth - and one, moreover, not too distant in its own self-containment and internal logic from *Lord of the Flies*.

This tale of a small detachment of soldiers, male and female, who long after the war is over continue to cut off from them by sea or, in this case, by half-wild ignorance. *Mathy Beacon* is in my view the most considerable play that Cooper ever wrote: in it as nowhere else his exceptional talents were put to work on an exceptional story. If you don't already know it, you ought not to miss the opportunity to hear it repeated in an extremely well-acted and directed production tomorrow afternoon.

David Wade



Mr Es Haq Seeking aid and support in Europe

Massoud's adviser in London

Afghans say Soviet offensive failed

By Edward Mortimer

The Soviet spring offensive in Afghanistan was a failure, according to Mr Muhammad Es Haq, the political adviser of the Afghan resistance leader, Ahmad Shah Massoud.

Mr Es Haq, who was received at 10 Downing Street yesterday, flies back to Pakistan today on his way home. He told *The Times* the Soviet offensive against Massoud's stronghold in the Panjshir valley had had three dimensions: a surprise attack, a planned assassination of Massoud himself, and the use of very large forces with sophisticated weapons. The first had failed because the *mujahidin* (resistance fighters) were expecting the attack, and second because the would-be assassin had been persuaded by his family to reveal his mission to the resistance, and the third had been met by a change in resistance tactics.

Instead of attempting to hold the valley Massoud had kept most of his forces out, keeping all his plans secret, and had then proceeded to harass enemy units and lines of communication over a wide area.

In the first stage of the offensive, comprising high altitude bombing and other softening-up operations, no one had been killed, Mr Es Haq said. Later there had been many civilian casualties when the Russians attacked three valleys in the neighbourhood, he estimated resistance losses in the first 20 days as "maybe 25 *mujahidin* and 300 civilians". But later there had been "very high" casualties in successive offensives against different valleys, with bombardment of towns and villages.



Iberia tries military law to end strike

From Harry Debellis Madrid

In an effort to break a three-week-old pilots' strike, Iberia's management put pressure yesterday on those pilots who belong to the Air Force Reserve, while pilots from Spain's second biggest state-owned airline, Aviaco, also voted to walk out unless their demands were met.

The Iberia strike by pilots demanding guarantees against lay-offs has forced cancellation of scores of domestic flights. International flights have been less seriously affected because employees must by law furnish certain essential services.

In answer to an Iberia query, the Defence Ministry said pilot reservists are bound by military rules may not engage in union activities. Iberia sent telegrams to more than 100 pilots in a reserve, threatening to report them to the military authorities.

Fassbinder play costs director job

From Michael Binyon Bonn

Controversy has broken out in Frankfurt over the dismissal without notice of the Director of the opera house for planning to stage a play by the late Rainer Werner Fassbinder which has been widely condemned as antisemitic.

Herr Ulrich Schwab has accused the city of censorship in suppressing a production of the play *Trash, City and Death*, written in 1975 but never performed. It deals with a Jewish speculator who exploits the poor in a big city, and has evoked sharp protests from Frankfurt's Jewish community.

Herr Walter Wallmann, the Christian Democratic Mayor, and Social Democrats said the play would encourage neo-Nazis. The city council said in a statement that it no longer had confidence in Herr Schwab.

Kashmir closed down by Martyrs' Day curfew

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Yesterday was Martyrs' Day in Kashmir, when the Muslim population commemorates the day in 1931 when their fathers rose in rebellion against the British and the Hindu maharajah and were put down with customary efficiency.

It was just the day, then, for followers of Dr Farooq Abdullah, recently dismissed as Chief Minister by Mrs Indira Gandhi's Governor in Kashmir, to give vent to their feelings with a day of prayers, marches and a little mayhem.

They were disappointed, however. At 10.30 on Thursday night an indefinite curfew was imposed on the state capital, Srinagar, and zealously enforced. A group of young men who popped out of doors to throw stones at the paramilitary police were sent scuttling back inside by four rounds fired into the air.

The leader of the pro-Pakistan party, the Awami Action Committee, Mir Waiz Manvi Farooq, complained (over the telephone) that he could not get out to greet his followers as his house was surrounded by steel-helmeted security forces.

It would be customary for the Maulvi, a religious leader, to

take a procession from the mosque to the martyrs' graveyard and make a speech there. But not this time. "I am virtually under house arrest", he complained.

Also complaining were six leaders of national opposition parties who had come to Srinagar for the day to show solidarity with the dismissed Chief Minister. They found they were confined to their hotel, and could not set foot outside. The hotel was also surrounded by men in steel helmets.

To add insult to injury the power in the hotel was cut off for six hours. But that was probably not a deliberate attempt to discommodate the distinguished visitors.

Mr E. M. S. Namboodiripad, the General Secretary of the Communist Party (Marxist) was incoherent with fury, with or without electricity. So was Mrs Maneka Gandhi, the Prime Minister's daughter-in-law, who leads the Rashtriya Sanjay Manch.

They and the others signed a memorandum condemning the curfew and complaining of the harassment of the common people.

Dance Theatre of Harlem Coliseum

Coliseum

Premiered only a few days before the first showing of *Agon*, *Square Dance* is Balanchine in his most classical mode. There is however a twist. On to a suite of virtuosic dances to music by Vivaldi and Corelli, he has grafted a square dance called and in so doing has highlighted the fact that both classical ballet and folk dance can trace their roots to the same source: the court dances of the Renaissance.

New York City Ballet has abandoned all the folk dance elements in its present production. Dance Theatre of Harlem has *Cable Burke* as the cheerful caller, exhorting the dancers to "make your feet go wickety-wack", a challenge

which they accept with grace and enthusiasm. Led by Eddie J Shelman, the men on the whole make a better showing than their ladies. Shelman himself is outstanding. With a commanding physique and a pleasing personality, his dancing has a soft muscularity which emphasises his very classical style.

Judy Tyrus seemed less at ease coping with the fiendish demands the principal woman's role makes on her virtuosity. In particular she lacks elevation, and there is a certain stiffness in her dancing, especially in the feet and arms, that seems to be typical of many of the women in the company. But her pirouettes were fast and accurate, and she really did go "lickety-split" through the intricate patterns of the choreography, the other women following her with zest and precision.

Loyce Foulton, apparently

made *Wingborne* in a single afternoon. A pas de deux to a Dvorak cello solo, it reminded me of nothing so much as top class gymnastics, with an occasional nod in the direction of emotional content. Well performed by Yvonne Hall and Lowell Smith, the audience showed every sign of liking it very much indeed.

Judith Cruickshank

Make your feet go wickety-wack

Dance

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SPORTING DIARY

Enter left, at 60 mph

Cricket has been played in some odd places. In the 1870s it was played on ice, by moonlight. But the Shaw Theatre in London can claim to be the first theatre to establish an ongoing leather-on-willow situation. On-stage cricket is an essential part of the play *White Game*, about an English cricket coach in South Africa, and it features a netted-in stage and a batsman facing a bowling machine hidden in the wings.

David Troughton opens the play bat in hand, his first line "At least try and bowl straight!" In the preview performance this line was robbed of its force by the fact that he was clean bowled first ball. Normally things go better than that, even though the ball seems about a lot on the Astroturf surface. Though the stage is smaller than a cricket pitch, at one stage the bowling machine is cranked up to 60 mph, "and stumps jump about all over the place." In real life Troughton is a club cricketer, and with all due modesty points out that in his last match he took five wickets.

Fine lines

Faulty measuring could mean that world records claimed this summer at the Olympic Games are invalid, claims Dr Arthur Allen, reader in surveying at University College, London. He says that many tracks and swimming pools are not accurate enough for events timed in hundredths of seconds, and says he could, if he wanted to break professional records, find major tracks where inaccuracies exist. It seems, he says, from a reluctance to use the latest surveying equipment: steel tape is preferred to electronic measuring devices.

Power flowers

Where are they now? Tommie Smith and John Carlos gave black power salutes at the 1968 Mexico Olympics, and were suspended from athletics and expelled from the Olympic village. Today, Carlos is involved with the organizing committee of the LA Games, while Smith is an athletics coach at the Olympic training site at Santa Monica. "It's a lot better now for minority athletes," Carlos says.

Star bandits

For the second year, Wembley Stadium will stage a professional American football match: Burt Reynolds' team (he owns it) as well as supports it, Tampa Bay Bandits, take on Philadelphia Stars, and despite last year's equivocal response, this time the management hopes to fill the place. But it is too late if you fancied your chances of getting in as a cheer-leader: the auditions, for 40 girls, were held this week.

Stout runner

As a betting proposition in the sport of Arab horse racing, Castalia was loved only by the bookmakers. But suddenly, she is a reformed character. She started regulars at a recent race meeting run by the Arab Horse Society by slamming a field of 19 by eight lengths. The winning owners, Lord and Lady Moyne, explained it was all due to a change of diet: "We've started feeding her two pints a day of the family brew," they explained. They mean Guinness.

In the bag

Field sports people are becoming worried about the increase of poaching - and the growing technical sophistication of the poachers. The old fellow who potters about on a lonely silent vigil, a lovable rascal hoping to fill his pot, is a figure of the past. Today's poachers roam in gangs of five linked by CB radio. They make dawn strikes and vanish into the poacher's boon, the motorway network. It is a game for profit: a bag of pheasants, or deer shot down with crossbows, can fetch up to £200 on a particularly good raid. The problem is growing, the British Association for Shooting and Conservation believes, with unemployment.

Wide call

Trueismans, or the art of making a sporting statement on the air that is immediately contradicted by events: Trevor Bailey remarked on the last day of the second Test match: "England's best chance of winning is for Greenidge to stay in a bit longer, so West Indies think they can get the runs." My thanks to Mr H. Anderson, to whom I will send a fiver for his pains. More examples solicited, more fivers offered.

Simon Barnes

BARRY FANTONI



"Gary Hart, Gary Hart? Say, that name rings a bell!"

David Owen assesses Andrei Gromyko, who is 75 on Wednesday

The hardline man of peace



In the political manoeuvring surrounding the now likely September meeting in Vienna between the Soviet Union and the United States to discuss the arms race in space, perhaps only one man knows exactly what he wants, and that is Andrei Gromyko. Not only has he been Soviet Foreign Minister for 27 years, a record for which there is no precedent since Metetrnich and Tallyrand in the last century, but he also has an intimate knowledge of the West, particularly the US and Britain. In 1939 he was asked personally by Stalin and Molotov to go to the Soviet embassy in Washington as the number two. At the age of 34 he was then exceptionally appointed as ambassador in 1943 by Stalin - some say to underline his displeasure at the failure of President Roosevelt to open up a second front.

Gromyko took part in the crucial war-time conferences in Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam in 1945 and ever since has been a hardliner on preserving the Soviet position, whether over the invasion of Hungary, Czechoslovakia or masterminding the military takeover in Poland. In 1952 he was appointed ambassador to Britain, Stalin telling him that he could not "quite fathom in what direction the expert and subtle diplomacy of London was moving. We need people who can grasp every twist and turn of it."

Gromyko's longevity is perhaps well illustrated by a clearly recognisable photograph of him with Churchill on the steps of Downing Street in 1953. He has met every American president since Roosevelt. His English is much better than he usually lets on, preferring most official talks to take place with an interpreter.

But the most abiding impression is of a man who knows intimately the western democracies' political systems. When the Soviet Union offered to take part in the Vienna "Star Wars" negotiations, they were not just flying a kite in the belief that the Americans would refuse. Gromyko knew that President Reagan would want to be back at the negotiating table with the Soviet Union before the presidential election. Gromyko will make his own assessment of Reagan's reelection chances and will not hesitate to impale the President on the hook of serious arms control negotiations in the crucial months of September to November if he believes Reagan is going to win. A politically frenzied White House will be no match for the detached, determined, Gromyko over the next few months.

In his new book of selected speeches and writings, *Peace Now, Peace for the Future* (Pergamon Press), Gromyko writes, "People say that to be a pessimist is simple and safe. I have been and remain an optimist. My optimism is based on my faith in human intelligence."

A characteristic of negotiating with Andrei Gromyko is that the manner of the discussion reflects an intellectual approach to political problems. He has hitherto published three books, *Export of US Capital*

and *US Dollar Expansion* under the pen name of G. Andropov and more recently, in 1982, a book entitled *External Expansion of Capital*. At heart he is an academic, yet he has become a formidable politician.

In the early days he was thought to be purely and simply a mouth-piece. Khrushchev said of him, "If I ask Gromyko to take his trousers off and sit on a block of ice he will obey - and he will stay there until I instruct him to move." But gradually, working closely with Brezhnev on détente, built up his authority, becoming a full Politburo member late in his career in 1973. It is hard to date the moment when he forged a close working partnership with Dmitri Ustinov, the Defence Minister, but I sensed that that was present, seeing them together at a reception in Moscow in 1977 after Gromyko and I had signed the Agreement on the Prevention of Accidental Nuclear War. It was that relationship which proved to be

crucial in the support of Yuri Andropov after Brezhnev's death, and again in ensuring the choice of Chernenko.

One cannot escape the feeling that both Ustinov and Gromyko saw early retirement facing them if Gorbachev had been brought in immediately after Andropov. But the chances are high that they have chosen Gorbachev to be the next generation's leader.

Of Gromyko the man, little is written. He clearly enjoys his family; relaxes well with his wife, whom I remember as a jolly companion at a folk singing performance arranged as part of Soviet hospitality. Many people have commented on his physical joginess. There was an odd incident in New York in 1978 when he stopped speaking on the podium at the UN General Assembly and had to be helped off on going back and finishing his speech, but insisted on keeping an

appointment with me. He appeared totally unconcerned, indeed irritated, by any demonstration of concern over his health.

Ideologically, he could not have achieved what he has if he was not judged wholly sound, and no one has ever been able to detect the slightest deviation on his part at any stage in his career from the standard Soviet position - adapted and adjusted as events and personalities dictated.

But of the genuineness of his wish for an ordered relationship between the Soviet Union and the United States I have no doubt. Ever the realist, he sees Britain as being on occasions a useful, though modest, influence on US thinking; a sounding board and sometimes a more sophisticated explainer of the western position.

He showed in 1977 little enthusiasm for Britain being a participant in the Comprehensive Test Ban talks, but once we were accepted, he treated us courteously as an important, though not equal, participant.

Meeting Mr Gromyko, I have always been left with a feeling of friendly respect, not changed by some of the strong language that he has used in recent months about the United States. He has reason to feel let down by Washington's failure to build on the Salt II negotiations. If Paul Nitze had been sent by President Reagan with full delegated powers to negotiate direct with Gromyko after his famous walk in Moscow with Ambassador Evstinsky in Geneva, I have little doubt that those two wily, experienced old men would have reached agreement on intermediate missiles.

Whether the US elects a Republican or Democratic president in November, it is crucial that the new Secretary of State, or otherwise someone very close to the President, devote time and effort to detailed negotiations direct with Gromyko. His experience, influence and power is a precious asset that cannot last much longer and ought to be utilized in the matter of arms control for the benefit of an ordered and peaceful relationship.

There has been insufficient high-level personal contact between the US and the Soviet Union since Cyrus Vance resigned as Secretary of State in 1979. The invasion of Afghanistan and the massing of the military takeover in Poland are insufficient reasons for down-playing the importance of that dialogue. In good times and bad, Gromyko will always talk to the United States. What he has lacked over the last few years has been someone ready to make a similar commitment.

It would be a fitting tribute if, 40 years after leading the Soviet delegation to the San Francisco conference establishing the UN, he was to end his career with a major arms control agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union.

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The author, leader of the SDP, was Foreign Secretary, 1977-79.

Gavin Stamp challenges the adoption of Britain's worst planning mistakes

Must India destroy the legacy of centuries?



Hyderabad's sixteenth century Char Minar arch. As the city expands, the converging streets face bulldozing to speed the traffic - and the British taxpayer may unwittingly help to pay

seem to realize that there is an alternative: the creation of pedestrian precincts such as have now been created in so many European cities.

Not that there is anything new about the idea of respecting the character of Indian cities. If the Indians really wish to follow the West, they could also follow the teachings of Patrick Geddes who, in the early twentieth century and in opposition to the often rigid classical grandeur of Lutyens's New Delhi, recommended improving ancient Indian cities by careful, small-scale surgery respecting the traditional character and "grain" of the urban fabric.

Five miles to the west of Hyderabad is Golconda, an ancient and now ruined city once famed for

the cutting of diamonds. Golconda, like Hyderabad, is also now threatened by radical change which is a consequence of industrialization and expansion, but here the danger comes from negative rather than positive policies. Until taken by Aurangzeb in 1687, Golconda was the capital of the Kuth Shahi kingdom and what survives makes it one of the most impressive archaeological sites in India. The fort, with massive fortifications and over three miles of wall, still stands and nearby are the extraordinary tombs of the Kuth Shahi kings. These strange, domed structures used to stand in eerie and splendid isolation, but now Golconda is being swallowed up by the apparently uncontrollable expansion of Hyderabad.

Unlicensed and often illegal

speculative building of concrete shanty towns has now come up to the walls of the fort and is even threatening to fill the area within the walls and between the fort and the King's Tomb.

If this building is not checked very soon, the romance and interest of Golconda will be irretrievably lost. Unfortunately, not only is the ownership of much of the land once the property of the Nizam, a controversial matter, but it is clear that the relevant municipal authorities are doing little to check the blatantly illegal developments.

Indian bureaucracy has its failings, which are suggested by the following letter sent to the *Indian Express*, a newspaper which has campaigned for the protection of Golconda. "... You are writing about the so-called illegal constructions of the houses around Golconda. You are therefore harming the interests of the contractors, I being one among them. This letter is to warn you sternly about the consequences you will have to face if you again publish such articles. This will only be in your own interest. Note, we too have strong political contacts and patronage."

Theoretically, Golconda is protected under the Protection of Ancient Monuments Act of 1951, which superseded Lord Curzon's Act of 1904, but while this legislation concerns the fort and the tombs, it does not affect the intervening spaces. The situation in India is therefore similar to that prevailing in Britain before the Town and Country Planning Act of 1946 prevented "ribbon development" and uncontrolled and unsuitable speculative building. Fortunately, both the state and national governments are being petitioned to act and to pass legislation to strengthen the existing machinery for preserving historic buildings and sites, but it may come too late to save Golconda.

It will be unnecessary as well as sad if Hyderabad and Golconda are both ruined before the Indians learn the lessons we have so painfully learned. Surely it is not patronising or neo-colonialist to suggest that we may know better. Indeed, we have every reason to be interested in the fate of Hyderabad. When the Queen visited Hyderabad and Golconda last November, the British Government announced a gift of £2.5 million to the city to "improve living conditions". This aid may not only be used for slum clearance schemes, it may also free some of the municipalities' own funds for destructive and ill-advised road schemes and other old-fashioned "improvements". And, of course, great monuments and old cities belong to all mankind and when they are destroyed, ruined or neglected, we are all the losers - not just the booming and vital Indian tourist industry.

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Philip Norman

Mogging to avoid the juggers

My apartment on East 85th Street is only three blocks from Central Park where it meets the Metropolitan Museum (irritatingly called by some "The Met"). Running my regular three miles is as easy here as in London and from one point of view, notably pleasant. New Yorkers, unlike Londoners, allow runners to be part of the landscape. You can see them on the busiest midtown avenues, wired into their Sony Walkmen, with their hand-weights and small taversacks. No one smirks at them, or shouts "hup-two, hup-two!" Even my favourite Hyde Park run was never free of that satirical element.

"Aren't you afraid of juggers?" my English friends say. The answer is, yes, constantly, but less so in Central Park, where I am shod for flight and carry no valuables other than a latchkey. Some juggers are said to prey exclusively on joggers (could they be "juggers"?). A mugger in Central Park these days would be hard put to choose among the multitudes of runners, skaters, rollers, disco-wireless who have opened the place up like a new frontier. The most insecurity I ever feel there is when a blue and white police car comes idling through the glades, packed with shotguns, wire netting and challenging, adolescent faces.

Each midday, therefore, I set off down East 85th, threading my way through the crowd of chain-smokers, trainees break dancers and leather-skirted vamps, disgorged at this hour by the York Preparatory School. Smells of fried chicken fat and rapid building hang feverishly in the air. My objective is to cross Park Avenue before the A.M.K. signal changes to DON'T WALK. To my left, 40 blocks south, the Pan Am building shimmers like fish scales in phosphorescent sun.

The West Side declares its superiority even to a runner - leveller pavements, less slippery garbage, a scent of flowers planted recklessly in ground-floor window boxes. As I pass the multi-million dollar duplex apartment houses on West 85th, glass doors, held open by rock-coated porters, release odd figures in creased shirts and scruffy sneakers, with little orange buttons screwed into their ears. I cross Madison Avenue, where every other shop window seems to display a small Picasso, and a fancy French loaf can be bought for as little as \$7.50. More runners issue from the mansions to jog, lope or bound ahead of me. By the time Central Park comes into view, I have ceased to be a lone eccentric and become part of a mass pilgrimage.

Those who planned New York as a city of classical beauty and democratic openness clearly studied all the great European parks before sitting down to design their own. Thus, Central Park is encircled by cobbled boulevards, recalling Paris. Thus, the paths curve with continuous seats, like Copenhagen's Tivoli or Llandudno's Great Orme. Here and there, a fancy lamp standard, not quite pulled down by vandals, recalls what a safe, solid Victorian

Broadway had its own Ritz and Delmonico's, and downtown was no more dangerous than an Arabian Nights tale. O. Henry's "Bagdad-on-the-subway."

My fellow runners are bound mostly for the Reservoir, a one and a half mile circuit famed as a pick-up place, and intermittently menaced by a personage known as the Reservoir Rapist. Others peel off to left or right along the six-mile outer ring road. I cross this at the point where I stood last autumn, watching the firstcomers in the New York Marathon cheered on by a girl personifying New York enthusiasm at its best. For each runner who passed, she managed a different cry of congratulation. "Go for it, 27! Yay, 91! You look great, 106!"

More introverted, less amorous runners like myself prefer the Delacourt Oval, just south of the Reservoir, a wide grass expanse set aside for organized ball games. At one end there is a lake on which perches a small synthetic chalet. Famous old West Side buildings like the Beresford show their Egyptian towers above the encircling trees. Behind the lake the skyscrapers of north Manhattan rear up together, silver and black, like so many frozen waterfalls.

At midday, no baseball teams are practising on the Delacourt Oval. There is the odd skater, the odd unicyclist, the odd group of dusty black youths tuning up their pantechnicon-size ghetto blaster. There may be a troop of little boys from some exclusive local prep school, outfitted in uniform red trackuits.

The running-path, 880 yards in circumference, seldom reveals more than a couple of figures to disturb my thoughts and sightline. My most irritating rival is a man in a grey nylon trackuit who comes scraping up behind me, then stops square in my path and lunges at the air with loud samurai bellows. There is also, occasionally, a man of about 80, in everyday clothes, heavy shoes and a Lenin cap, wobbling slowly but indomitably round the inside track. Most others I meet are Sony-wired and expressionless, their brains awash with the sub-bass thud of that ubiquitous disco drumming-machine.

Pounding my five circuits, I have watched the seasons change. I ran here even on last winter's coldest day, when Central Park was a feature less tundra, traversed by cross-country skiers, and I, alone among Manhattan's male joggers, remained insensible to the perils of genital frostbite. The ice on the lake that day actually steamed. I was utterly alone but for the skyscrapers and three black men with a chain saw, attempting to remove what they evidently mistook for a Christmas tree. Later, among some saplings, I glimpsed a charming sight. A group of Mountie-hatted park rangers, their wives and children were hanging presents on ice-pettrified branches and singing Good King Wenceslas.

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Roy Strong

Denims, the final fade-out

The other day I went into Herbert Johnson's to buy a new Panama hat. One of the assistants asked me the fate of my broad-brimmed fedoras of the late 1960s. "They are now part of the V & A's dress collection," I replied. "Oh, sir," was the riposte, "you should have brought them back here and we would have cut the brims down for the later 1970s." This experience brought to mind a reminiscence of Lucia Lindsay, formerly Duchess of Westminster. Descending the stairs of a great country house for dinner in the aftermath of the First World War she looked down and noticed that none of the Bright Young Things was wearing long white gloves. Quickly she removed the ones that she had on and hid them behind a photograph of Queen 'East of Spain'.

For me the history of changes in fashion is encapsulated in such trivial anecdotes. I have only ever seen revolution in dress on a grand scale once. It was in a series of films, taken by an amateur, of clothes worn at Ascot. In the 1947 reel there appeared an apparition, a lady dressed *à la pique* in the New Look, yards of fabric in defiance of Stafford Cripps. In the 1948 reel every single woman in sight was dressed in this manner, a revolution in appearance as dramatic as the abandonment of paniers two centuries before.

The theory that the silhouette of clothes reflects the growth and decline of the economy seems to me not without some substance. The most famous instance of this is, of course, the collapse of the crinoline in the 1870s coincidental with the beginnings of the great agricultural depression. In our own era, the expanding line of the New Look reflected the post-war boom as accurately as the furberlows of the late 1960s mirrored that economic bubble. When it burst in 1974 clothes swiftly caught the mood. Although already anticipated by the designers, men quickly became conformist again, velvet and frills were exiled, long hair and side whiskers were out, and ties, lapels and trousers narrowed to form the thin mean line of the recession.

Historians of fashion always over-simplify. If I were asked the representative garments for the years 1960 to 1985 I would choose one for both sexes, jeans. The recent news that the jeans market is tottering must have the same impact in the end as that which resulted in piles of unsaleable crinoline frames

outside Birmingham in the 1870s.

Although jeans began as a classless garment, they were assimilated ultimately into the designer network and woyaged from being the attire of the outcast to becoming the uniform of the middle-aged protester. Flared, frayed, bleached, patched or sewn with brilliants, may this article of clothing now rest in peace. It was the item of dress which *par excellence* epitomized the socialist urban. That both garment and ideology have been simultaneously is hardly surprising.

When it comes to clothes some of the most singular people are those who decide in which period by deliberation they will defiantly remain. Mrs Reynolds Stone parades still in the quintessence of the New Look, as does Mr Bunny Roger and early 1950s revived Edwardian dandy. I can still be spotted strolling along Piccadilly in curled bowler, waistied jacket, narrow trousers, a furled umbrella and a carnation in his buttonhole. Lord Stockton must be the last true Edwardian, slightly dandified but with a shambling quality to his appearance. He can still be seen at the *Vanity Fair*. The Bloomsbury spirit lives on in Lady Charlotte Bonham Carter in her long skirts and blouses over which she pins an arrangement of shawls that place her as a direct descendant of Dorelia and Augustus John's gypsies.

Recent fashion for wearing old clothes could only ever have emerged with the advent of disposable in the 1960s. Prior to that clothes had to last. That plus the mania for dressing up led to the discovery of the joys of old clothes. I remember seeing Marina Guinness in the late 1960s appearing each night with a different 1870s dress, a whimsical trait made the stranger because of the absence of the same period's undergarments. In fact the best sort of old clothes are those found in the back halls and cloakrooms of country houses, rows of boots and shoes, heaps of Norfolk and backing jackets in tweed, explosions of hats from fluff to straw for all weathers. The smell and the patina of them is precious for there they remain for each generation to rifle through to plod over moor and park land.

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THE HARD CORE OF RECOVERY

Yesterday's rise in mortgage rates to 12½ per cent was quickly followed by some depressing industrial production figures. British industry produced 2½ per cent less in the three months March to May than in the preceding three months, and is now producing less than it was a year ago. To rub salt in the wound, America's new industrial production figures yesterday showed a rise of nearly 12 per cent in the past year.

Coal production accounts for nearly 4 per cent of industrial production in Britain, so the immediate statistical cause is clear. Mr Arthur Scargill is responsible for bringing Britain's economic recovery to a halt. Experience suggests that after a major industrial dispute, output bounces back pretty quickly — though it leaves permanent scars on Britain's markets. But as the damage spreads to other industries — through steel, and through the docks — it has made it harder to detect the underlying strength of the recovery. Is it strong enough to withstand the additional pressures of a rise in interest rates?

The production figures do suggest slightly slower underlying growth than the brief surge enjoyed by Britain at the turn of the year, but not yet an end to recovery. Investment surveys have suggested that capital spending will lead the economy right through into 1985. That being so, the statistical effect of the miners' strike might even, ironically, be that it will appear to prolong the recovery, with important political consequences. For if it gives no reason to change forecasts of

output levels in 1985, but meanwhile depresses output in 1984, the growth rate from one year to another may actually be higher in 1985.

The surveys, and this cheering calculation, both however predate the rise in interest rates these past two weeks. So do yesterday's industrial production figures, which are only as recent as May. If output — even excluding coal — was already dipping by then, will higher interest rates create the kind of setback Britain suffered in 1981? Or will they — even worse — abort the recovery, as they helped to do in 1979?

The main reason for pessimism is precisely that this phase of the recovery is heavily dependent on investment. Higher interest rates, combined with a fall in the stockmarket, make it harder for companies to raise money; they are therefore likely to delay investment plans or try to run down stocks. The burden of interest rates is particularly acute when measured against inflation: because of the Government's success in bringing inflation rates down, interest rates are much higher in "real" terms than they were in 1979 or even 1981.

This is one of the penalties of success long suffered by the German economy.

So high interest rates will undoubtedly slow the recovery if they have to stay up for long. When the industrial smoke clears, the Bank of England should be able to stretch the elastic between American and British interest rates again. But this depends on developments in the United States, where still

higher rates are feared — and on monetary developments back in Britain. The Government believes its own money numbers will, for a variety of technical reasons, begin to look much better in the autumn. In the short term, however, a rise in interest rates can make the figures worse rather than better, as companies borrow more to meet their interest bills.

This is what happened in 1979-80; but there are reasons for greater optimism today about the strength of the company sector. Its profitability has recovered strongly; so has its liquidity. This makes it much easier for industry to bear the burden of higher interest rates, as well as making industry more determined to maintain or increase production; and there is a final, vital support to today's investment boom, given in the Budget. With capital allowances against corporation tax about to disappear, it makes sense for companies to plug away at their investment programmes, come what may from the Bank of England. The tax loss from delay would be greater than the likely burden of higher interest rates.

This hard core in the recovery should be proof against today's vicissitudes. And there is another benefit: a five per cent fall in sterling's exchange rate against the major currencies from last year's average has added its mite to British competitiveness and exports. According to the International Monetary Fund's calculations (based on labour costs adjusted for exchange rate changes) this had anyway improved 19 per cent between the beginning of 1981 and the end of 1983.

WOMEN AND THE WHITE HOUSE

Ever since "correspondence and private consultation" among the Republicans produced Aaron Burr to run with Jefferson to succeed Washington, the choice of vice-presidential running mate has been a far from immaculate process. Mr Mondale's sequence of semi-public job interviews in Minnesota was no departure from the pattern, except that to the weller of party, personal and geographical considerations that have always influenced the choice, the Democrats have now added sex and race. Mrs Ferraro does indeed benefit from positive discrimination, but is she therefore more favoured than those candidates who have been picked over the years because they represented the South? Ticket construction is an uncertain science and it may be that Mrs Ferraro will eventually add no extra votes to Mr Mondale's total. At the very least, a touch of excitement and — dare one say it — glamour has been added to the Democrats' campaign.

In some other respects too, Mr Mondale's choice is to be welcomed. In selecting a woman he has opened a door to opportunity; the result in years to come could be an increase in the supply of talent to American politics. That Mrs Ferraro has been chosen because of her sex is clear. Yet her qualifications, political and personal, bear comparison with others in the rather disappointing field surveyed by Mr Mondale. It is a moot point whether her obvious

ignorance (shared by most of her colleagues in the House of Representatives) of foreign affairs is necessarily a disadvantage; when another member of Congress, Gerald Ford, entered the White House, he had advisers of the stature of Dr Kissinger to buttress him. She would surely soon shake off the habit ingrained in the New York Congressional delegation of bowing one week to the Jewish Lobby and the next to the Irish. That said, Mrs Ferraro's selection must occasion misgivings.

The doubts concern her kind of liberalism, sealed by the patronage accorded her by Speaker O'Neill, and what that implies in the light of the platform likely to be adopted at the Democratic convention in San Francisco next week. Who ever occupies the White House next January, control of federal outlays is the priority; one looks in vain at the Democrats for a convincing exposition of how the federal budget deficit is to be clawed back. Fancy revenue-raising plans are not enough. Nor is the targeting of defence spending as the arena for savings — despite the huge sums that could be cut from the Pentagon's bloated accounts without impairing the defence of the West. The Democrats need to be hard-headed about the domestic programme; but Mrs Ferraro's voting record in Congress suggests little of the necessary political courage to secure savings from such difficult areas as social security, health

care, veterans and "middle class welfare" such as education spending and tax relief.

Mr Mondale's victory in San Francisco on Monday is, of course, not yet completely assured, though Mr Hart's eyes must surely now be on a future presidential race. What matters still both for the Democrats and for American politics is what Mr Hart came to represent during the primaries: the "neo-liberalism" which rejects big government while retaining a liberal perspective on issues of personal freedom and morality. (For America's allies the incoherence of this perspective on foreign policy must be a source of anxiety for the future.)

Mrs Ferraro's presence may, however, recapture Hart women. But since the psephologists suggest that she will frighten away men, especially Southern men, her undoubted popularity among women voters will bring little net gain. What is certain is that the huge gap in the polls in President Reagan's favour will close. The signs are present that next week's convention will be a love feast and that, despite Mr Jesse Jackson's ego, blacks will augment the coalition. The women's interest groups which have been so strident in demanding a place at the top table of politics will then have the chance to translate those impressive statistics of women in the electorate into a block vote large enough to shake the White House.

TURNING A TRIAL ON ITS HEAD

Poland's most important political trial for many years opened in Warsaw yesterday and was promptly adjourned. Four leading members of the former Social Self-Defence Committee — "KOR" — are accused of preparing to overthrow the socialist system by force. On the evidence of the indictment, the state prosecutor will try to argue that the KOR activists, armed with money and instructions from "centres of subversion" in the West, hijacked the Solidarity movement and led it into violent confrontation with the socialist state. This is already the official propaganda explanation of "what went wrong" with Solidarity: an explanation peddled by a thousand Party hacks, eagerly repeated by fraternal communist parties, and even enshrined in the latest popular encyclopaedia.

It is a famous explanation. Perhaps only the successors to the Bolsheviks could believe that four intellectuals can by sheer force of words, lead astray a whole nationwide, ten-million strong workers' movement. In fact, to the limited extent that the KOR activists did influence the evolution of Solidarity, they helped strengthen its always impressive self-restraint. They were a moderating not a radicalizing force.

Evidently, the Jaruzelski government does not wholly believe its own claims. The Act of Indictment is a farcical

document, which darkly notes, for example, that the accused "in order to win applause for the opinions... often resorted to mockery, the use of paradox, and the appearance of truthfulness". As a civilized country indeed, where the use of paradox is a crime. More seriously, the Polish government has made a mockery of its own judicial system by conspiring with representatives of the United Nations, and even of the Church, in an attempt to have the four defendants leave the country without trial. But if they are dangerous criminals who plotted to overthrow the state, why is the state so eager to release them?

The answer is twofold. In the first place, the Jaruzelski government must fear that it will find itself in the dock, if the trial goes forward. In their inimitable Polish way, with letters smuggled out of prison, like the one from Adam Michnik published in *The Times* on Thursday, the accused have turned themselves into the accusers. They demand the right to self-defence in open court. As Lech Walesa has commented, the overwhelming majority of Poles will believe them, and not the prosecutor. What was meant to be a trial of Solidarity thus threatens to become a trial of the regime which crushed it.

Secondly, the Polish authorities fear Western reaction. Western governments know that this and other trials in Poland

have nothing to do with justice or the rule of law, and everything to do with the politics of the communist regime and of its Soviet block allies. The West has therefore rightly made the improvement of relations with the Jaruzelski government dependent upon the release of these unjustly accused KOR activists, together with seven imprisoned former Solidarity leaders and more than 600 other political prisoners.

The Politburo must decide when it meets this week. If it can seize the opportunity offered by the fortieth anniversary of communist Poland on July 22 to make this gesture of reconciliation to its own people, then the West could also feel encouraged to talk about some of the trade and credits (perhaps under IMF auspices) which the Jaruzelski government so desperately needs.

Certainly no Western government should accept a political solution which would involve the expulsion of these brave men from their native land, against their will. If Mr Papandreu does (as is rumoured), contemplate helping General Jaruzelski by offering the unwanted hospitality of Greece to men who have repeatedly declared that their duty lies in Poland, his West European partners must endeavour to dissuade him. That is the least we can do.

Fate of BL after Jaguar sale

From Sir Richard Dobson
Sir, I am prompted by Mr Robin Cook's article on privatization (July 11) to comment, belatedly, on the Government's reported intention to sell Jaguar Cars. If BL as a whole were in a state to be offered for sale and to find a buyer, I should have no objection, but apparently this is not the case.

I have no recent inside knowledge of BL but it appears that after a few lean years, Jaguar is profitable. This recovery has been achieved in a period of government ownership, with the help of unspecified infusions of public money under two admirable BL chairmen (appointed by governments of different complexions) and with highly competent managers.

All credit to all concerned, but remember that Jaguar originally joined BL's predecessor group because it did not feel able to survive on its own. So far, then, the Jaguar story is one of entirely beneficial public ownership.

Whether Jaguar will prosper on its own with a relatively small range of luxury cars remains to be seen; I hope it will. No doubt it is hoped that there will be a wide span of shareholders rather than one predator in the end — we have recently noted the difficulty of achieving this end. I am however more concerned over the remaining parts of BL.

In most industries that serve the consumer over a broad range of products, a disproportionate share of total profit is earned in the higher price ranges. It is easier to get a satisfactory mark-up on luxuries than commodities, on cake than on bread, on caviar than on cod.

People who buy Jaguars (many of them corporate purchasers in this country) are prepared to pay more than the intrinsic value of the transaction provided. People who buy Minis are not. In other industries in these hard times many groups are cutting back on their unprofitable activities while carefully nurturing their profitable bits. BL Cars seem to be doing precisely the opposite. Why?

It cannot be to increase competition — there is plenty of that already. It can hardly be for money; it is unlikely that the interest on the proceeds of a sale would be paid over to BL, will equal the Jaguar profits surplus to investment requirements.

My fear is that this transaction will defer the day when BL (what is left of it) becomes self-supporting and prolong the period over which public subsidies will be needed if Britain is to continue as a manufacturer of cars on a substantial scale — and the alternative, for social and strategic reasons, is almost unthinkable.

I have the greatest respect for Sir Austin Blids and his board. If they can assure us that in their opinion both Jaguar and BL as a whole will be better off for their separation, I for one will accept their view. In the meantime I can only hope that industrial logic is not being subordinated to political dogma.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD DOBSON,
16 Marchmont Road,
Richmond,
Surrey,
July 11.

Coal and pollution

From Mr C. J. Arthur
Sir, Your leader this morning (Jobs held to ransom, July 9) makes it clear that as long as coal production remains a state monopoly and the National Union of Mineworkers is led by Marxist revolutionaries our existing coal stocks are a liability rather than an asset.

The emerging evidence on the effects of acid rain suggest that coal-burning is a particularly destructive form of pollution, so is not this a further argument for reducing our dependence on coal and for going nuclear where the risks are more putative than actual?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER ARTHUR,
Milton Abbey,
Milton Abbas,
Blandford,
Dorset.

Pieces of eight?

From Mr Douglas B. Hague
Sir, I wish to add to the collection of flags made by an American friend by fashioning a Jolly Roger. This flag is not described in any of my reference books, and doubtless those who flew it hardly observed convention or protocol.

However, I would be interested to learn whether there is any accepted form I might be advised to follow. In order to present the charge on a traditionally proportioned flag I imagine the skull should be superimposed over the crossed bones rather than above them, and that the pairs should be humeri or tibiae, not the larger and inelegant femurs.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS B. HAGUE,
Mansfield,
Aberystwyth, Dyfed

Belief and miracles

From Mrs A. K. Brown
Sir, I read your editorial, "Tomorrow's Bishop" (July 5), with great interest after a day spent visiting English-speaking prisoners in a French prison.

One Englishman there is on hunger strike, and I had encouraged him last week to pray; this week he spoke of his attitudes to faith in Christ and the Church, and we had a deep discussion on the historicity of the resurrection. He went straight to the point; for him, faith in a living Lord hinged on this.

I told him about the book *Who Moved the Stone?* written by F. Morison, a lawyer whose "educated mind, conditioned by the advances

Conflict and corruption in West Africa

From Professor Lord Bauer, FBA
Sir, "Corruption is endemic in Nigeria, and in most other places in West Africa" (report, July 7). This is true. A major factor behind it is the massive government involvement in economic life through the large volume of state spending, and possibly more important the operation of far-reaching economic controls.

In West Africa the wholesale politicization of economic activity began in the closing years of colonial rule, and has progressed almost without interruption since then. This process has much extended the scope and scale of corruption. Indeed, corruption is a virtual corollary of some of these controls. Here are two examples.

State export monopolies (marketing boards) have handled all major agricultural exports of Nigeria and Ghana since the Second World War. When they were made permanent after the war, categorical assurances were given to Parliament (e.g. Cmd 6950, 1946) that the boards would on no account withhold money from the African producers subject to them.

These assurances were broken immediately. Both in the terminal years of colonial rule and since then, these organizations came to be used as instruments of very heavy taxation. They have withheld hundreds of millions of pounds from the producers.

The vast funds accrued to politicians and civil servants who had previously thought in terms of very modest sums. Moreover, they had little experience of government or sympathy for most of their countrymen, especially the rural population.

Their primary loyalties have always been to their families, tribes and political supporters, and not to the rather nebulous concept of the public good of a large and deeply heterogeneous country. These arrangements have therefore encouraged large-scale corruption.

Throughout West Africa, notably Nigeria and Ghana, much commercial activity is subject to restrictive licensing or similar controls. The result of import licensing or official control of foreign exchange is the allocation of key supplies so well beyond those familiar in the West. Effective rationing on the ultimate retail level is largely impossible, and is rarely attempted.

Most consumers pay market clearing prices which are much higher than landed costs, or the prices at which controlled supplies are allocated. There is therefore a large and readily visible windfall in

the situation. The allocation of a licence or of a controlled commodity carries with it a gift. The bribes represent a partial return of the gift. Besides leading to corruption, arrangements such as state export monopolies or extensive import licensing provoke personal and group conflict. In West Africa the export monopolies have also obstructed or even throttled major traditional exports.

We have some leverage in these countries. It could be used to press for a removal of export monopolies, replacement of restrictive controls by higher duties, and generally for less politicized economies.

Since the Second World War we have exerted our influence in these countries largely in the opposite direction. Yours faithfully,
PETER BAUER,
House of Lords,
July 12.

From Mrs M. A. King
Sir, Both the Government and the Opposition might be wise to consider the Nigerian crisis in a wider context than an infringement of diplomatic privilege.

Exaggerated and wrong as Nigerian accusations may be, there is a grain of truth in them. To foreign eyes, Britain does appear to be a hotbed of political plotting and conspiracy against legitimate governments, which maintain peaceful and mutually beneficial relations with us.

It must have been galling to the Nigerian Government and people, trying with one accord to clean up the corruption and plunder of public funds by the previous regime, to see Dr Umaru Dikko stuck up in front of a British TV camera, declaring war against them. Unaware, perhaps, of the unbridled freedom of this country, they mistake public demonstrations of hostilities for official British policy.

Giving asylum to political exiles of all shades and creeds is an old tradition we do not want to give up. But we have every right to prevent the beneficiaries from abusing the privilege by public demarches against governments with whom we are at peace and on friendly terms. The Nigerian crisis should be treated with moderation, and with due regard to wider issues than diplomatic etiquette.

I am, Sir,
Yours respectfully,
M. A. KING,
6 Rochester Terrace,
Edinburgh 10,
July 9.

The fire at York

From Miss E. M. Arbuthnot
Sir, Do we really have an Archbishop of York who needs lessons in elementary theology?

He asks whether illness is to be regarded as punishment. Any psychiatrist, most doctors and a cursory glance at the daily newspaper would enlighten him, even supposing he did not know the biblical answer, which is "sometimes certainly, but not always".

He goes on to ask whether we are to regard crashes as applying only to sinners. The answer to that has to be yes, unless he knows of someone (other than the Lord Jesus Christ) who is not a sinner.

Presumably he means to imply that they are always punishments for specific sin. Again, the answer must be "sometimes certainly, but not always". But it surely does us no harm, in whatever state we find ourselves, to ask what the Almighty

is trying to say to us in or through that particular situation?

If the Archbishop really believes that we are living in extra-biblical times, as his letter suggests, how else does he expect the Almighty to communicate? Through John Ebor's reason? Sir, I submit that that medium is faulty.

The fire at York Minster demonstrates wonderfully both the judgment and the mercy of God, or, to put it in New Testament language, both the goodness and the severity of God. We find His judgment in that He allowed, many believe caused, lightning to strike the Minster for does the noble Archbishop really think it was beyond the Lord's power to prevent it? And His mercy in that, having made His point, He helped the firefighters extinguish the blaze. What could be clearer?

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH ARBUTHNOT,
12 Edge Street, W8,
July 12.

Nuclear progress

From Mr John Weatherill
Sir, Together with others you have published, Mr Raymond Blackburn's letter (July 10) endorses your own enthusiasm for the "Star Wars" concept. The enthusiasm appears to stem from the belief that because, theoretically, it is a defensive concept it will increase security and therefore represents progress in the accepted benign sense.

There is, however, as your letters columns testify, a sharp division of opinion on this question. Others see it at least as further escalation of high technology in an enormously costly outer space arms race; at most as the point of no return because the problems of dismantling yet another and more exotic tier of war machinery they believe would hopelessly frustrate any future disarmament process.

Sadly, in these crucial times, information vital to the formulation of sound judgments is not easy to come by and we are obliged to grope in the half-light; our views tend to be emotion-based and this is not good for the health of the nation.

It may therefore help those on both sides of the argument to know that this question of a comprehensive space defence system — in current Pentagonese, "space defence initiative" (SDI) — is under intensive study by scientists and others close

to the scene, and that the likely implications for arms control are under study as well as the feasibility, effectiveness and probable cost.

It has been announced that possibly the deepest inquiry so far into the science and technology of directed energy weapons is to be undertaken by the American Physical Society. The APS study committee will have at least 15 members and will operate on a budget currently being sought from both government and foundation sources to avoid the accusation, "he who pays the piper calls the tune".

Because of the nature of the topic members of the committee are not all likely to be physicists. Heads of the US Office of Technology Assessment have indicated they will rely heavily on the findings of the APS study.

In the light of these facts it would seem sensible for laymen to avoid excesses either of enthusiasm or gloom in premature judgments, pending the findings and the debate which surely will follow. This would be the time to confirm or change our own opinions but of course we must be kept informed of these events to be able to do so.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WEATHERILL,
Wylye Head,
Kilington,
Wiltshire,
July 11.

Land abuse on a Greek island

From Mrs Rose Moore and others
Sir, We write to express concern for the wild flora of Corfu. As readers, who have visited the island, will know, it has quite a different nature from that of most of the other Greek islands due to its relatively high rainfall, which supports an enormous variety of plant life. Wild orchids, anemones, iris, cyclamens and many thousands of other species are to be found in profusion.

The majority of the island is also covered with olive groves which, despite the upsurge in tourism, still provide the oil essential to the livelihood of the rural population. It is here, where the olives are traditionally gathered from the ground, that the threat to the wild plants has arisen. In an attempt to make harvesting more economic, the agricultural organisations are promoting the use of herbicides to suppress the growth beneath the trees. Spraying results in extensive areas of scorched and dying vegetation.

Apart from the fact that this practice brings ugliness to beautiful places, and threatens to eradicate much of the native flora, the longer-term implications may turn out to be harmful to the olive culture itself. Lack of vegetation, especially on the steeper slopes, is likely to give rise to soil erosion and loss of fertility.

This would be the first step towards creating barren landscapes, such as are found throughout mainland Greece as a result of centuries of land abuse. Is there anything that can be done to prevent such a folly being perpetrated in the name of progress?

Yours faithfully,
ROSE MOORE,
FELICITY BAXTER,
GERALD DURRELL,
LAWRENCE DURRELL,
St Mary's,
Church Street,
Harfield,
East Sussex,
July 3.

Practice makes perfect

From Mr P. D. Briggs
Sir, On the Monday of the Lord's Test I watched eight West Indian cricketers practising in the nets prior to the day's play. No English cricketer was to be seen. The malaise of modern cricket is that too much emphasis is placed on fitness and not enough time spent on perfecting technique and improving skill. Rugby is no different. The England team spend hours training, but had not the wit to win the ball in the line-out in the last England-Wales match.

It is no accident that schoolboys perform to the very limit of their talent with the constant practice and concentrated coaching they receive. Often, when they leave school, they perform less well. Young cricketers on county staffs are told, by the county coach, usually an ex-player, that they have played a bad shot or how to pat the wicket down between deliveries. How much time, I wonder, is spent on analysing technique, correcting faults, experimenting with practice methods?

I should be interested to know how much time John McEneaney, Steve Davis or Jack Nicklaus spend on practising rather than pounding the soles of their feet.

Yours faithfully,
P. D. BRIGGS,
Bedford School,
Bedford,
July 10.

Crown of laurels

From Mr Harry E. L. Woolf
Sir, Your correspondence recently anent the office of Poet Laureate recalls to my mind the coronation of King George VI for which the laureate of the day, Robert Bridges, composed nothing. Taxed with this omission he replied, as it seemed to me with absolute logic, that his muse couldn't work to order and therefore nothing was forthcoming.

This item of news reached the ears of *iArcy*: "the bible of show business" — a publication written in an argot with which any relationship to English as we understand it was purely coincidental. They printed the story under the headline "King's canary won't chirp".

Yours faithfully,
HARRY E. L. WOOLF,
3 Camborne House,
Abernethy Road,
Sutton,
Surrey.

A cat's life

From Mr C. Llewellyn
Sir, Your correspondent A. C. Norfolk 29) suspects that a majority of people are more satisfied with the service their pets receive from the veterinary profession than they are with the treatment they themselves get from the medical profession.

In the case of my late Siamese cat, Tiny, the opposite was the case. He was run over on a Sunday, and had a back leg broken in several places and his hips damaged; the vet advised that nothing could be done and that for his sake Tiny should be put down.

Unwilling to agree, my father telephoned a local orthopaedic surgeon, who came to the hospital with his anaesthetist, operated on the cat and put his hindquarters in plaster.

When the plaster was removed the cat had only the slightest limp and lived another 12 years.

Yours faithfully,
C. LLEWELLYN,
Buckingham Farm,
Beare Green,
Dorking,
Surrey,
June 29.

THE TIMES Saturday

14-20 JULY 1984 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

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Travel: Savouring the flavour of the Big Apple - a leisurely stroll down Fifth Avenue; the quiet charm of Ramsey Island

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Travel: China on the cheap; In the Garden; Values on high-tech sports gear; Eating Out; Drink: Foreign beers

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Family Life: A haven for butterflies: Out and About; Bridge; Chess; Review: Rock records; Galleries and Concerts

19,20
The Week: A critical guide to television, dance, films, theatre, opera, sport, auctions, radio and other events

Under covers

A rich and wonderful treasure of words exists in Britain for those who know where to look for it. Tim Heald discovers some discreet and exclusive libraries whose extraordinary collections of books are known only to the relatively few and enjoyed by fewer still

At tea-time on probably the most absorbing London Test match Saturday ever, I wandered into the "reading" room (my inverted commas) which looks out over the field of play. Ranged in front of the glass-fronted bookcases filled with leather-bound copies of *The Sporting Magazine* were six armchairs and in the six armchairs were six men, each one wearing the fluorescent rufous-and-custard-striped tie of the club.

They looked as if they had been there for ever and would remain thus rooted until the great umpire in the sky finally removed the stumps. Their eyes were closed, and if they were not fast asleep then I'm a Chinaman.

Britain's public libraries are, of course, among its great glories. And there are marvellous libraries still in private hands. But somewhere in between, housed in institutions of varying exclusiveness, are some extraordinary collections of books known only to relatively few people and used by fewer still.

The MCC for instance, owns what is almost certainly the finest collection of cricket books in England (and that probably means the world, although there is a fine rival at Haverford College, Meisner, just outside Philadelphia - they still play cricket there). Stephen Green, the Lord's librarian, says that on a busy day, during a wet Test, they have to turn people away from the rather poky premises the library occupies. These are high up in the building behind the pavilion which also houses the real tennis court and the squash courts. There is an extensive rebuilding programme going on at the moment and he is hoping to be moved to somewhere bigger.

At the moment the books overflow into the pavilion, where they are scattered about the place. In the reading room, for instance, as well as *The Sporting Magazine*, you can find some annual reports of county clubs and detective novels with cricketing themes, such as *Mr Evans - A Cricketer's Detective Story* by Cyril Allington and *The Amas-*

Books not to be bandied about

Like many of Britain's great libraries the MCC's is a Victorian creation. The first bookcases were installed in the 1870s, and the first big collection of books presented by Captain H. B. Sutherland in 1893. The stock was augmented by H. R. Ford, who presented A. L. Ford's collection in 1933, and by Sir Julian Cahn's widow, who presented F. S. Ashley Cooper's collection in 1944. No one has counted the total number of books, but Stephen Green says that it must be in five figures.

Other private clubs in London have considerable libraries, which reflect the interests of their members. The Garrick, in Covent Garden, which draws its members mainly from the acting and legal professions, has a good collection of theatrical books, although the lawyers rely on their specialist libraries in the Temple. The Travellers' Club, in Pall Mall, has one of the most opulent-looking libraries in clubland but it would not discuss its contents with *The Times* on the ground that they were the members' books and not to be bandied about in public. The club is less stuffy about the room itself, which is much in demand for parties. ("I'm afraid you couldn't see in there today, anyway," I was told. "They're filming there.")

Clubs like the MCC or the All England Club at Wimbledon are much more accessible. Casual outsiders cannot penetrate them, but anyone with serious research to do would have no difficulty gaining access.

The biggest and most celebrated, lending library in private hands is the London Library, at the corner of St James's Square. Founded in 1841 - at the instigation of Thomas Carlyle, who disliked dealing with the unhelpful officials at the British Museum, it now has about a million books and a serious overcrowding problem. Charles Dickens used books from the library to research *A Tale of Two Cities* - Carlyle had two cartloads sent round to the author - and it has been a boon to scholars and writers ever since. Its greatest attraction is that members may take out 15 books at a time and keep them out until someone else wants them. Moreover the library will send books by post. Colin Wilson, the author, who joined the library in 1956, never went there in person until the mid 1960s, but relied entirely on parcel post to Cornwall.

At about the same time as the foundation of the London Library there grew up a chain of institutions known affectionately as "Lit and Phils". Their exact title varied from town to town but many were called "Literary and Philosophical Societies or Institutions". The heart of these places was always the library. Many have succumbed to the challenge from the mass-paperback market and the public-library system, but here and there they survive and prosper.

The grandest survivor is the Newcastle Lit and Phil, which contains about 100,000 volumes. But none is more thriving than the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, founded two years before the London Library. The Highgate "Lit and Phil" occupies its own building in the centre of Highgate village. A thousand or so members pay £10 a year to belong and enjoy the privilege of borrowing from the stock of between 35,000 and 40,000 books on the over-crowded shelves.

The institution stages a series of lectures in the lecture hall every winter, and this summer there has been an exhibition to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the death of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who was a local author. Like other Highgate writers, Andrew Marvell, Gerard Manley Hopkins, A. E. Houseman (who wrote his *A Shropshire Lad* just round the corner) and John Betjeman, Coleridge is permanently remembered, with his complete works available from the shelves of the "Lit and Phil".

Some of the institute's lectures have been bound and stored. Members can borrow the 1870 lecture on "the construction of a railway across the channel beneath the coasts of England and France", the 1841 talk on "man, his structure and functions" or the revolutionary 1884 dissertation on "the electric light in our homes". There are also 94 volumes of the nineteenth-century editions of *The Illustrated London News* and bound volumes of the Highgate parish magazine. In addition, Gwynedd Gosling, the long-serving librarian, has a four-figure budget for buying new books.

Societies like Highgate's, the Newcastle Lit and Phil and the Plymouth Athenaeum were always intended to be local and broadly based in their interests. At the time as these there grew up a whole range of "learned societies", whose membership was national and whose interests were highly specialized. For these, too, the library was always a vital, sometimes the most important, component.



"Lit and Phil": Overcrowded shelves of The Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, home for 40,000 books

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All fellows of the society are entitled to use the library. About 80 new fellows are elected every year in four separate ballots; a high proportion are archaeologists, but they include every sort of historian and all kinds of gifted amateurs from numismatists to brass-rubbing buffs. It is claimed that the library has a complete set of rubbings of every monumental brass known in Britain. Even rare books are kept on open shelves, and there is everything from Domesday to the *Dictionary of National Biography* and beyond. I noticed Great Church Towers of

Continued on page 14



Test of time: R. A. Fitzgerald's scrapbook in MCC library

probably the fine domed building in Newcastle upon Tyne, which contains about 100,000 volumes. But none is more thriving than the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, founded two years before the London Library. The Highgate "Lit and Phil" occupies its own building in the centre of Highgate village. A thousand or so members pay £10 a year to belong and enjoy the privilege of borrowing from the stock of between 35,000 and 40,000 books on the over-crowded shelves.

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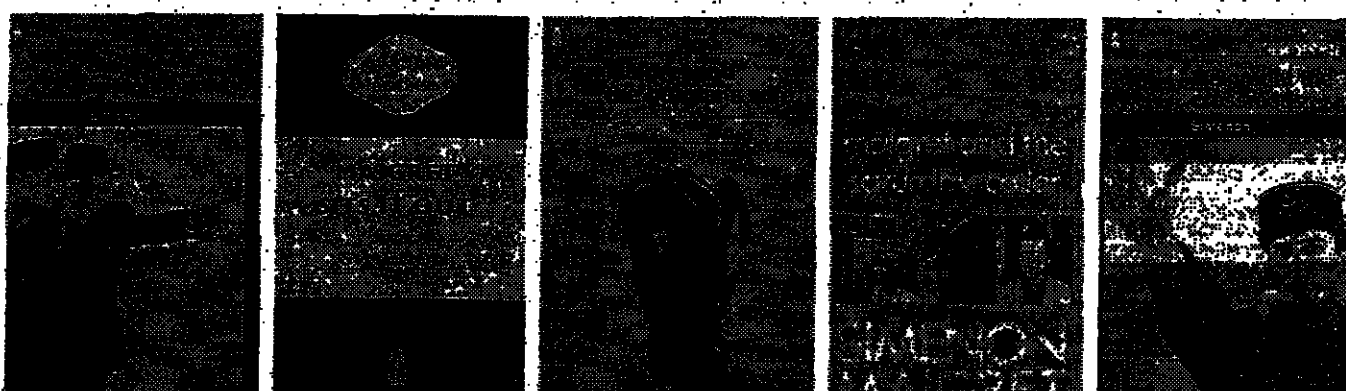
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Continued on page 14

Chapter and verse for collectors



A Maigret quintet: Cases for Georges Simenon's famous pipe-smoking detective, as published by Penguin Books in the 1950s and 1960s

My money had in hand is hardly a library in the grand sense, but it does serve to illustrate some of the principles on which book collecting operates.

All collections should start with an enthusiasm and the first piece of advice to anyone setting out is to choose a theme that is also a hobby. It can be highbrow, Jacobean tragedies or the stories of E. E. Schattschneider, early nineteenth-century illustrated books or modern first editions. One friend collects biographies of British Prime Ministers; another seeks out T. E. Lawrence.

Settle on your subject and surround yourself with every scrap of useful information. Many areas have their own bibliographies - collectible items in their own right. For crime fiction buffs, the indispensable guide is by one Allen J. Hubin (American, of course). I was content to make do with paperbacks or hardbacks of any ilk. Had I pursued the collector's ideal of pristine first editions, I would not have progressed far without a visit to somebody who deals specifically in crime fiction.

Many specialists, however, operate a mail order service only and this rather spoils the fun of the chase. Choosing items from a catalogue, writing out the cheque and waiting for the

parcel to arrive a few days later is not at all the same as the thrill of excitement produced by a chance discovery.

The specialist normally charges more than the general secondhand shop, the price to be paid for his superior stock in a particular field. Do not forget jumble sales and charity shops. I picked up Ian Fiebles' biography of the great cricketer Frank Woolley at my daughter's school's Christmas fair, a comparatively rare book, in excellent condition, for 50p. A specialist in cricket memorabilia would have charged at least £10.

Book auctions cater more for the dealer than the individual collector, but they can offer a useful guide to the state of the market. There is nothing to stop a collector viewing the books beforehand and if, among a lot of a couple of dozen volumes there is the vital one, a call to the successful bidder may secure it.

Book fairs have become increasingly popular in the last 15 years, affording an opportunity to compare the stock of a number of dealers under one roof. The odd snip may emerge but these are professionals and unlikely to let very much through the net.

Condition matters far more to the serious collector than it did

before he or she catches on. Although most collectors insist (and they are probably telling the truth) that investment has nothing to do with it, there is satisfaction to be had from buying when prices are low and watching them climb.

This means either collecting in a hitherto virgin field, and trusting that the speculative hunch pays off, or keeping a close eye on existing areas and snuffing out one or two where prices have reached a temporary full. One tip at the moment might be seventeenth and eighteenth century English literature, which enjoyed a vogue between the wars but has since faded in popularity.

New fields of interest are opening up all the time and it is no longer possible to pick up, say, cheap early volumes on science and medicine. Social history is another increasingly collected subject in which bargains are becoming scarce.

The beauty of book collecting is that anyone can do it, from the millionaire able to lay out thousands of pounds on one volume to the humble snapper-up of 50p paperbacks. Who is to say that the satisfaction is not equally profound?

Peter Waymark

ABC For Book Collectors by John Carter: The classic introduction to the subject, first published in 1982 (Granta Publishing, £8.95). *The Book Collector*: Published quarterly in March, June, September and December. Available on subscription (£15 a year) from 90/91 Great Russell Street, London WC1.

Book and Magazine Collector: A monthly magazine, which concentrates on the more popular collecting areas.

The Antiquarian Booksellers' Association, 111 Park Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire EN4 9QR (01-449 9457): Holds a monthly book fair in London and 100 fairs each year outside London.

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TRAVEL 1

FIFTH AVE

Mansions and muggers, drunks and diamonds – it is the street which has everything New York can offer. Robin Young sets out on foot from Washington Square and finds that the Big Apple tastes astonishingly good

If you want to get anywhere in New York, I was told, you walk. A car immobilizes you, buses crawl, cabs cost, and civilization stops at the subway entrance. So I decided to walk Fifth Avenue. Why nibble the Big Apple when you can take a slice? East is east and West is west and the twin meet on Fifth – the seam along which Manhattan is sewn. Walking a straight line, I should not get lost.

Fifth Avenue starts at Washington Square, usually the gathering place of exhibitionists. On the chill winter morning when I set out, there was only a police car circling the fountain and watching a couple of drunks.

The Washington Arch is a popular landmark. The public paid for it, because they had liked a temporary wooden one so much. Otherwise there are few indications that this is the start of one of the world's great streets. The lower reaches of the Avenue are a modest mix of offices, shops and apartment houses, enlivened principally by a couple of good Gothic churches and the Salmagundi Club – the street's sole surviving mansion, only partly compromised by the rumps of seven air-conditioners protruding from the windows.

Walking past a discount book supermarket so big it provides shopping carts, through an area of ready-made clothes shops, I quickly reached the quirkish Flatiron Building, a steel-frame skyscraper built like a wedge of cheese. Struggling by its windy corner across the snow to examine a statue in Madison Square Park (where they displayed Liberty's arm and torch while raising the money to erect the rest of her) it was discouraging to find that the monument commemorated a dignitary who died in a blizzard.

I was grateful for the encouragement provided by the candy-bar chimneys erected over steaming hell-holes where workmen were repairing the city's mysterious, but partly effective, subterranean heating systems.

Northwards, the Avenue was taken over by Oriental imports, china and glassware, rugs and carpets, and I could press on, a block a minute, toward the most instantly recognizable pile of statistics in the world, the Empire State Building. Every February, runners race up to the 86th floor's observation deck in 12 minutes flat, but this morning a notice warned that visibility was nil, so it was not even worth taking a lift.

I went instead to Altman's, a dignified Renaissance pioneer of commercialism in midtown, and now the last great store surviving so far south. It made a placid, comfortable pause.

Other stores have moved north or expired. The Moonies' News-World has taken over the colonnaded mansion that was once Tiffany's. Now the bottoms of its corner columns are cut away to accommodate a branch of Burger-King.

The New York public library is big enough to organize walking tours of its own (free, meet at 11am), with the reading rooms alone covering half an acre. They claim to lay hands on any book in the English language in 20 minutes.

On 47th Street is "Diamond Row" where you can, it is claimed, see jewels traded on the sidewalk. I stood among the glittering windows until I saw one Hasidic Jew slip another a brown paper parcel. Of course, it might have been a pastrami sandwich.

Blocks here are 88 paces long. Between 49th and 50th I counted eight food stands – one every 11 steps. One traded as Shish-ka Bob, others sold everything from tempura to roach chestnuts. The street's bustle was intent and determined. One man's tee-shirt said: "When the going gets tough, the tough go shopping". With complementary confidence a trader's carrier-bags boasted: "An educated consumer is our best friend".

Outside Saks Fifth Avenue, a man carried a sandwich board: "God bless the cheerful giver. I have no other income".

It is the acquisitive society's dreamland.

The glass-sheathed Trump Tower is the city's latest acquisition in verdantly-planted public space. At the door guards in fancy dress insisted their uniforms were exact replicas of those at Buckingham Palace, and made by the same company. In summer they wear pith helmets. Inside is warmly coloured marble, highly polished brass and laughably expensive shops.

Window shopping was a test of endurance, as I pushed behind me the temptations of Gucci, Ferragamo, Loewe, Van Cleef and Arpels, and even Bergdorf Goodman itself. But I broke through to Grand Army Plaza and the vista of great hotels.

The Plaza, "center of high social activity", had everyone in for tea. The Sherry-Netherland opposite cleverly balances a perfect imitation of the French chapel royal atop a slender tower several hundred feet up. Next door, the Pierre is a veritable Versailles, only vertical.

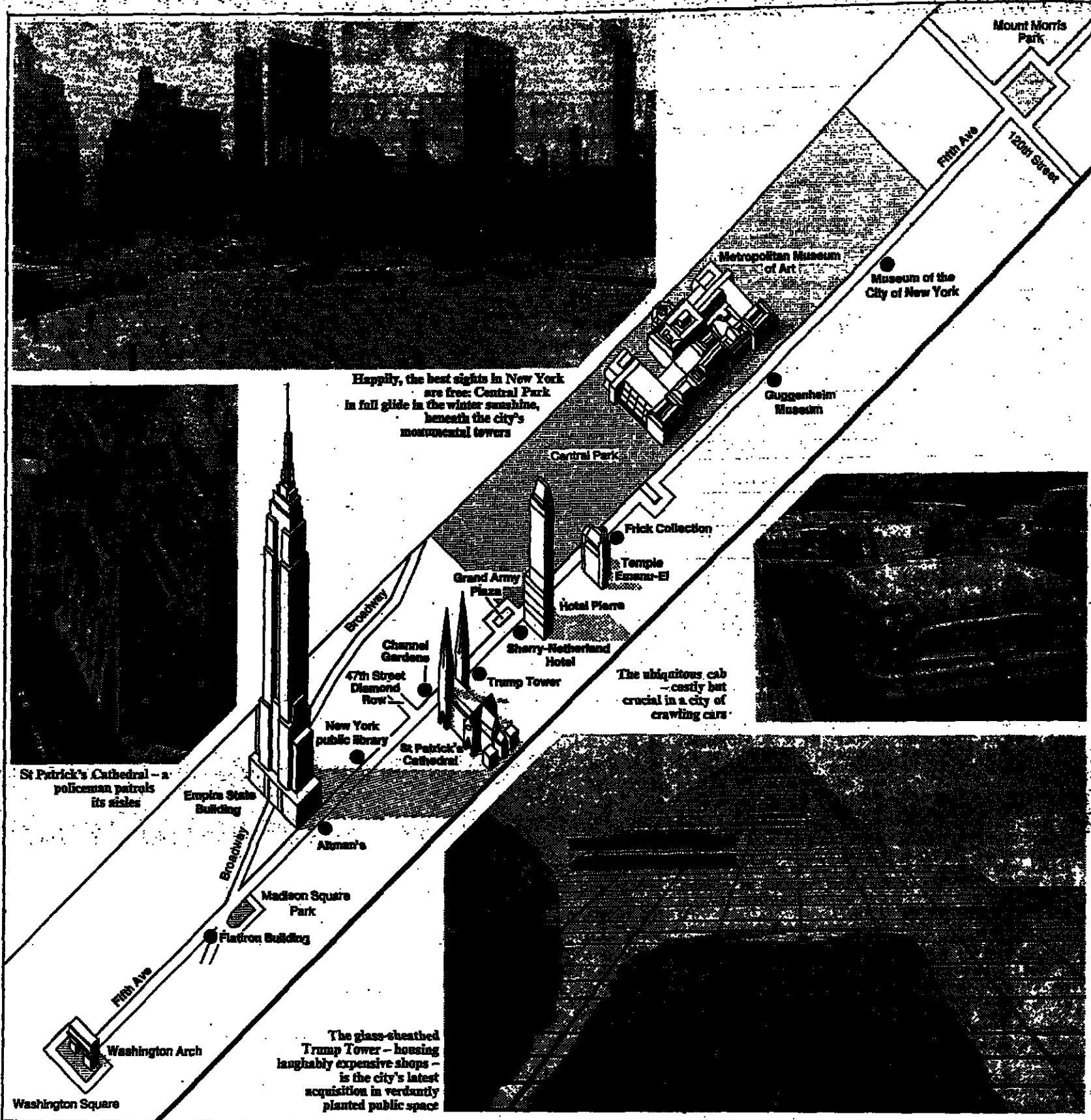
Suddenly, the Avenue was residential and sedate. The mansions of Upper East Side, recycled as clubs and residential co-ops, are all neo-th or neo-th, and only a walker has the chance to savour their architectural variety. Past the solemn grey mass of Temple Emanu-El, I was entering "Museum Mile".

Thank heavens the Frick Collection, which starts it, is refreshing, not fatiguing. The squirrels and birds in the trees of Central Park, the mighty Metropolitan Museum of Art might have stopped my walk for a week. There are 32 acres of it. From the glass-enclosed courtyard of the American wing one could turn from Tiffany's loggia to watch families sledding and tobogganing in the snow outside. The museum, which was teeming, felt alive.

It set the pace for my slide down the Guggenheim. Frank Lloyd Wright's building is built like an introverted better-digger. It makes the pictures easy to miss.

Friends had warned: "Do not pass 96th Street". In fact, I entered "mugger-land" conversing with a friendly messenger-boy and his pet pigeon. The architecture was, if more modest, still reassuring until I saw the metal hulk of the Annenberg Building driven like a snake into the middle of Mount Sinai Hospital. It was a grim reminder of the brutalism that was supposed to abound.

Yet there is nowhere friendlier or more charming than the Museum of the City of New York at 104th Street. From there on it was scary, past project houses surrounded by police cars with whooping sirens, a few vandalized vehicles, and burnt-out buildings. When Fifth Avenue was interrupted by the green rise of Mount Morris Park at 120th Street I took the excuse, turned tail and fled. I may not have penetrated the Big Apple's heart but I reckoned I had enjoyed the fruit and did not need to dig too deep into the hard core.



TRAVEL NOTES

How to get there: I chose British Airways but there is more competition to take you to New York than to anywhere else on earth. There are also plenty of books about the city: *The Companion Guide* by Michael Leppman (Collins, £5.95) is specially written for walkers. Walking tours: For those who prefer not to walk alone, guided walking tours are organized by

Central Park Rangers, the Museum of the City of New York, and the Municipal Arts Society, 457 Madison Avenue. Also Art Places International, 30 Christopher Street (tel. 255-3845); Art Tours 63, 52nd Street (772-3889); Holiday in New York, 152 W 58th Street (765-2515). Ninety-minute Walking Tour Tapes, including one for midtown Fifth Avenue and another for Millionaire's Mile are sold in bookshops and provide a brisk commentary in anecdotal style. The best way to see Harlem is not by walking. Take a coach with Penny Sigmansing, run by black Americans from 303 W 42nd Street (tel. 247-2860).

Over the sea to the wild tip of Wales

In our occasional series on islands, Rob Neillands braves the Bitches and takes the boat to Ramsey, inhabited by seals, rabbits and solitary humans...

The sole snag with Ramsey is getting there. This green little island lies a bare half-mile off the west coast of Pembrokeshire, but that short distance contains the turbulent waters of Ramsey Sound and the trip across the gap can be... well, interesting.

We put out from the shelter of Porthclais in Phil's fishing boat, and were half-way across the Sound before I saw the problem – a sudden, violent bursting of waves, dramatic sheets of spray, a tumble of rocks snapping up from the sea ahead. It looked... well, nasty.

"That's the Bitches," said Phil, braced against the wheel. "That can be a terrible place in winter."

"It's winter now," I pointed out, clinging desperately to the rail as the boat rolled off another huge wave and thudded heavily into the trough.

"That's true," agreed Terry, the mate. At that moment another wave came over the side and went down the back of my trousers. I began to suffer a small sense-of-humour failure. The passage from St David's

to Ramsey, Ynys-Dewi, St David's Island, lies through the jagged rocks and undertows of the Bitches, a fearsome place where the local lifeboat was once wrecked with the loss of three lives. When the tide surges down the Sound, the sea on one side of the Bitches is 6ft lower than the water above, and the waves surge like rapids across the rocks. If you like that sort of thing, it's thrilling. Phil Davies, our boatman, does this trip regularly, summer and winter, and he took us through the rocks without a qualm, under the amazed gaze of a seal which surfaced close by to watch us come unstuck.

Once through the Bitches we clambered over the side into an even smaller boat and in a few moments were ashore, scrambling up the path to the farmhouse, across grass a-hop with rabbits.

Seen from the cliff-top, little Ramsey Island is a splendid place, packing an immense amount of charm into a very small area. From Carn Llenda, the high point of the island, one can see out to the western rocks, the "Bishop and his Clerks", another reef even through the rocks without a qualm, under the amazed gaze of a seal which surfaced close by to watch us come unstuck.

Phil and his wife Hanna lived on Ramsey for 10 years and Hanna looks back on them as the best of her life. "Every Christmas morning we would go down to the beach and find the caves full of seals, lovely creatures. Do you know how to rear an orphan seal-pup? No? Well, give it half-a-pound of margarine melted in Ideal-milk, and just watch it grow." You learn something new every day.

Ramsey has been left to farmers since the twelfth century, and one of those early settlers introduced the rabbits. The rabbits rule Ramsey today, nibbling any crops down to the roots, dicing with the sheep and the deer for a share of the cropped grass, a constant enemy to the Freeman family who farm on the island now. They welcome visitors in summer,



Stones of splendour: St David's Cathedral, built in the twelfth century at the birthplace of Wales's patron saint and run a small shop in the city of St David's.

St David's doesn't look much like a city. It is really no bigger than a small village but it has a cathedral and that's all it takes to turn this attractive little hamlet into somewhere special, but then, it isn't an ordinary place. This is the birthplace of St David, the patron saint of Wales. His cathedral is a splendid pile, suggested down into a hollow by the river Alun, hopefully hidden from those Vikings who braved the Sound in days gone by and stopped to water their ships on what was then St David's Island. Such precautions didn't help, for the pirates burnt the original church down 10 times before the raids finally stopped. The Bishop's palace nearby lies in ruins, but the cathedral looks magnificent.

The present cathedral, built of local sandstone, dates from 1180. Apart from the relics of St David, it contains a magnificent ceiling in carved Irish oak, and the tomb of the chronicler Geraldus Cambrensis.

During the Middle Ages, St David's tomb was a place of pilgrimage, and two trips to Wales gained as much merit as one to Rome. This year the pilgrimage is being revived, a

fresh reason to visit this lovely, half-forgotten part of Pembrokeshire. While the cathedral and Ramsey are the two great attractions on this wave-beaten coast, there is much more to see and do. The Pembrokeshire Coast Path curves along the hillsides, great castles guard the hilltops, small harbours, like Porthclais, are tucked away in sheltered coves. But if you come this far to explore the wild tip of Wales, take Phil's boat for a trip out to Ramsey, braving the waters of the Sound.

TRAVEL NOTES

Full information on Ramsey Island and St David's from St David's Peninsula Tourist Association, City Hall, St David's, Haverfordwest, Dyfed (0437 720747). Phil and Hanna Davies, Ramsey Guest House, St David's (0437 720327). Dinner, bed & breakfast, plus a cruise to Ramsey once a week, £14 per night. Pilgrimage information and accommodation from the Warpool Court Hotel, St David's. Weekend breaks Fri-Sun, £44 half-board. Details from Inter Hotels (01-733 3241).

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TRAVEL 2

Peking station: Pictures by Mobay Clark



★Officially, 1983 was the Year of the Pig. For those of us who were there, it was actually the Year of the Backpacker, although sometimes it was hard to tell the difference. The Chinese threw caution to the winds and decided to let in anyone with enough gumption to shun the brochures and present him or herself at a Hongkong travel agency with enough money to buy a visa.

The effect was astonishing. Last September, at the height of the tourist season, Xian, a popular spot for the nearby terracotta army at the tomb of the first Qin emperor, looked more like Pireaus in August. Squads of denim-clad youths roamed the streets looking for a bed, a cheap meal, and the chance to scrounge their way on to the tourist buses occupied by all those middle class folk who had booked a package.

The *modus operandi* for "bumming" China was explained to me by two cheery New Zealanders who had been deported from the Philippines and just crossed the border into Canton after a couple of nights in a Kowloon flophouse.

"First of all you get to Hongkong. Then you spend two thirds of your money on buying Sony Walkmans which you smuggle through the Chinese customs and sell for three times the price to the Chinese. If you get really desperate, you sell them your spare pair of jeans."

Thus equipped, our intrepid pair planned to spend three weeks travelling hard class - the most basic category - through China by railway, living off the native youth's desperation to get their hands on something made by the West. Perhaps they accomplished it. At the very worst, they could expect a polite repatriation much more genteel than the treatment meted out to the locals who chose to dabble in their black-market wares. Whatever the case, the Chinese have taken a close look at the Western independent traveller, and they clearly do not like what they see.

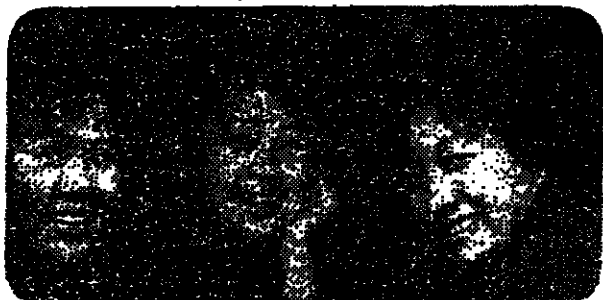
Officially, no independent visas will be issued this year. In fact, there is every possibility that a limited number of people will still be able to slip through the net by travelling to Hongkong and obtaining a permit to enter Shenzhen, the commercial zone on the colony's border where regulations are more lax, and then travel on into China itself.

No one will be able to obtain

China: short cuts through red tape

these permits in London. The only way they can be had is by travelling to Hongkong on the off chance and doing the rounds of the travel agencies who issue them there. Before you commit yourself to such a task, you should consider carefully what is involved.

I have met various types of independent travellers in China over the past three years, since individual visas began to be issued. Speak to them at the time, and virtually every single person will vouch for the fact that there is no other way to do the place. Tackle them after a few glasses of Taingao beer and the real story comes out.



The problem is that China's travel industry bears no relation to anything in the West. Facilities we take for granted, such as the ability to buy airline and railway seats or hotel accommodation when we want them, are not available in China.

Several people I met found that the only way they could get around was to plead for the cheapest possible seats available in hard class on Chinese trains. You might be able to bear the discomfort, but few people appreciate the woes of the country's rail network. The journey from Canton to Peking, less than three hours by air on a service which is frequently booked up days ahead, can take more than two days by train. Add to that the time it will take you to get away from the station and find a hotel and you will soon discover that a three-week holiday will give you an enormous insight into the decor of the Chinese internal transport system and very little else.

People who can cope with these problems are those who can speak a little Mandarin or travellers who have visited

China before as part of a group and have a Chinese phrasebook. If you do not fall into either category, then my advice is to swallow your pride and join a group. Some are very pleasant indeed, and you can always check the size of the party in advance to ensure that it is to your liking.

Alternatively, you could try the partly independent holiday which the Chinese are trying to promote as a halfway house between the two poles. This restricts you to a limited number of cities, since the Chinese tourist organization does not have enough staff to deal with individuals in all the regions where foreigners are allowed. But, for a premium of between 30 and 40 per cent above the standard package rate, you should be able to travel independently and be met at each destination by a personal guide carrying the tickets for your next destination.

Visitors I met in China last summer using these arrangements had nothing but praise for the system, and thought the extra cost worth while. Something is bound to go wrong along the way, of course, but it is a guide whose only foreign language is Serbo-Croat or a duff airline reservation, but that is all part of visiting the place.

Custom-made itineraries, preferably entering through Peking and leaving through Canton into Hongkong, since this is probably the best route to travel through China, should ensure that the amount of time spent waiting in ticket offices and hotel lobbies is cut to an absolute minimum.

Two companies in Britain specialize in these arrangements. Voyages Jules Verne has a computerized independent travel programme which enables you to suggest an itinerary. The Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding also runs semi-independent holidays.

China is no longer as cheap as it used to be. An individual package, excluding air fares to Hongkong, will cost at least £500 per person for two weeks if it is to stray out of the immediate area of South China towards Peking, Xian and Shanghai.

David Hewson

Voyages Jules Verne, 10 Glastonbury Street, London NW1 (01-485 8080).
The Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding, 152 Camden High Street, London NW1 (01-267 9841).

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Live shows on French trains

More live entertainers will be performing on French inter-city trains this year in an effort to relieve the tedium of long rail journeys. Songs, mime, poetry readings, audio visual shows and lectures on the regions traversed by the train are among the attractions now provided by French Railways (SNCF) on 10 different holiday routes.

The entertainment is provided in a specially converted coach at the end of each train and is free to passengers. Another inter-city attraction is the family train with play areas for small children and nurseries for nappy changing and bottle feeding.

Along Europe's railways, SNCF has enjoyed uninterrupted growth in passenger traffic for more than a decade. Current growth is around 2 per cent a year.

Michael Bailey

Tasks for the summer months

Life and death battles with feeds and weeds

By mid July the flush of spring is over, and the garden is beginning to show signs of wear, particularly after a warm, dry spell such as most parts of the country have been enjoying this year. A little time spent now tidying up and encouraging new growth is all that is needed to give it a new lease of life.

A job which can easily be fitted in between other tasks is picking over plants which have been in flower. Remove all flowers and leaves which have gone over, taking care to take off only those parts which are completely gone. Roses will need dead-heading. Remember that if a plant is allowed to set seed after it has flowered, it is unlikely to produce its full quota of flowers for the season. Dropped leaves should be picked up before they blow all over the garden.

Check the moisture content of the soil. If plants are short of water they will not produce new growth, and this

in turn stops the production of new flowers. Only plants which are well charged with water should be fed. Plants such as roses which produce flowers on wood made by the current season's growth must be kept fully charged with water. When they are growing strongly, feed the rose bushes with a proprietary rose fertilizer, applying at the rate specified on the packet.

Hesepole haws are now in operation in some parts of the country. If you live in one of these areas as much household water as you can and give it to the plants most in need. Mulches are doubly important under these conditions, and mulches applied early will have more than paid for themselves by now. Fertilizers can be applied through mulches, but they must be watered in. I prefer to scrape the mulch aside before applying fertilizer and replace it after watering.

Often the application of a foliar feed will freshen up plants which are looking drab. Phostrogen and Murphy Foliar Feed are two to look out for. Again apply according to instructions, making sure you apply sufficient to run off. Do not do this in full sunshine, but wait until the cool of the evening before dark.

A hoe through beds and borders will assist in reducing water loss from the soil. This creates a dust mulch over the soil which cuts down evaporation to the atmosphere. Make sure weeds are removed early and not allowed to seed.

Lawns are probably the most important feature of the garden in summer. As the days become hotter and the ground drier, growth begins to slow down. If you are in an area where hesepoles are banned, there is not very much you can do about a dry lawn, as if it needs watering it is no use giving it just a drop. Water needs to be applied

in sufficient quantity to get well into the soil, and can only be done efficiently with a sprinkler. There should be no run off; water should be applied slowly over a long period in very small droplets to allow the soil to absorb it properly.

Weedkilling and feeding cannot be done unless the grass is growing vigorously, which means unless it is well charged with water. Reduce the amount of grass being taken off by altering the cutting height of your machine, and cut less often during spells of hot weather. Keep the edges well trimmed to give the lawn a finished look and keep down the grass seed heads which appear at this time.

Pests and diseases should be dealt with as they are seen. Keep these under control and you will encourage good growth.

Ashley Stephenson

Border lines

The generic name *garanium* usually conjures up images of the deservedly popular zonal and regal pargonians. But there is a family of less well known varieties, often referred to collectively as the "Crane's bill", which are ideally suited to the border. This family can provide good ground cover as well as herbaceous plants capable of standing on their own. As far as siting is concerned, ideal conditions are a well-drained soil with good light but some will grow in shade and they will tolerate all kinds of soil conditions except a boggy soil. They are hardy and will survive even the hardest conditions, except where the site remains wet throughout the winter. Propagation is easy except in very few cases. Most varieties will accept division, some strike readily from cuttings and there are a number which can be raised from seed.

Rosy future

Roses which are natural climbers, or can be trained to climb, add an extra dimension to a garden's height. Preparation is all important, since climbing roses are inclined to be left in places longer than the bush types. Dig two spits deep and add as much farmyard manure as you can afford to the holes; the sites should be 2ft by 2ft. Many varieties today are grown in containers; they may be planted out at any time but I strongly recommend restricting this to the dormant season as the chances of success will be much greater.

Climbers need to have a framework; this can be a fence, a wall or a specially constructed frame. Anything can be used if the rose can become attached. There is a tremendous variety to choose from to fit almost any situation. *Rosa longicuspis* is not a repeat flowerer, but its leaves continue to climb the framework and it is very vigorous as is *Rosa helandica* which has white flowers and is not recurrent. *R. filipes* Kilgus which is probably more vigorous than those two, also has white flowers. You need space to grow them.

R. banksia *lutea*, the yellow banksian rose, is a joy; it will easily cover the wall of a house or grow up a tree. *Mermis* is a popular rose, with large pale yellow flowers in summer; it should be grown on a wall, since it is a climber. *R. hardy*, wedding day has fragrant blooms of white-tipped pink, and although not very vigorous it is ideal as a gift. *Albertine* is also delightful; the peachy flowers have one of the finest of all scents; it is quite vigorous and is best grown over an arch.

There is a wide colour range and they are easily obtained through nurseries and garden centres. One of the best is *Garanium Endressii*, which seems to flower throughout the summer. Its finely divided leaves are attractive even when the light-pink flowers are not showing, and as a dense plant it is ideal for ground cover. The form *Wargrave* Pink has salmon pink flowers. *G. ibarum* has produced a lovely hybrid, *x magnificum*, with violet-blue flowers. Another attractive hybrid, again with pink flowers, is *Russell Pritchard*, possibly more creeping than the others. Its flowers are almost carmine and in colder counties it may need protection. *Claridge Druce*, also a hybrid, has blue flowers, and has to be grown in a little shade. *Johnson's Blue* is also a good garden plant, and *G. macrorrhizum* *ingwersenii* variety, which has scented foliage and pale lilac blooms, will tolerate almost any site.

Repeat flowering climbers are many and varied. *Betty Bay* has soft pink flowers and will grow to 10ft. *White Cookade* has fragrant white flowers throughout the summer to the frost. *Golden Showers* has nicely scented blooms which open a rich yellow but pale to almost white with age. *Casino* has deeper yellow flowers, but no scent, and is sometimes prone to black spot.

Grand Hotel has deep red flowers, nicely shaped, but it is not as strong as those above. *Hendel* is almost a bicolor, the flowers having a white base with petals edged marked and flushed a rich pink - a good garden rose with more scent. *Schneeglöckchen* has lovely scented apricot to orange flowers; unfortunately, it is not the grower it should be.

Leverhousen with its pale yellow flowers makes an excellent specimen, which will cover a framework in about four years. *New Dawn* is quite an old variety but holds its own with the modern roses. The flowers are light flesh pink in colour and produced in profusion. Plants will cost between £1.75 and £2 each.

Memoirs: Patis Gardening (Hants), £3.95.



Libraries galore

Continued from page 11

England and Westminster Abbey. *Reexamined* in the bay where I talked to Mr Hopkins; nearby there was Myrick and Skelton's *Ancient Armour*.

They have everything you could conceivably want on armour, not to mention 150 manuscripts from before 1450. Open the card index at random and you will find "Crest... fountains... plaques... plants and trees... Consult the survey of first-time library users and you see that they have been researching, among other things, stone circles, thirteenth-century psalters, chess sets, Anglo-Saxon bones, Dorset bells, ice-houses, Samuel Pepys, Anglo-Saxon, bestiaries, church graffiti, bestiaries, Ecuadorian prehistory and medieval sheep.

The Library of the Society of Antiquaries has something for everybody. The MCC, Lord's Ground, London WC2 (0226 1611) is a private club with a long waiting list, but anyone with a genuine interest in using the library should contact the librarian. The London Library, 14 St James's Square, London SW1 (030 7705) is only open to members, but there is usually no delay in admission. Annual membership is payable in advance and is usually £100 a year.

The Highgate Library and Scientific Institution, 11 South Grove, Highgate, London N6 (040 3345), welcomes new members. It has an annual subscription of £10. You don't have to live in Highgate to belong. The Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1 (047 9664), is an alternative but not for those students may use the library provided they can produce a letter of introduction from a fellow or from a recognized institution of further learning.

Specialist libraries include: Antisemitism: A wide range of material relating to the antisemitism and the holocaust is at the Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1 (01-636 7247). The collection was begun by Dr Alfred Wiener in 1933. Much was sold and moved to Tel Aviv in 1980 but has been replaced or microfilmed. The annual subscription is £25, and you will need a letter of introduction.



Cricket buff: MCC librarian Steven Green with Wisden

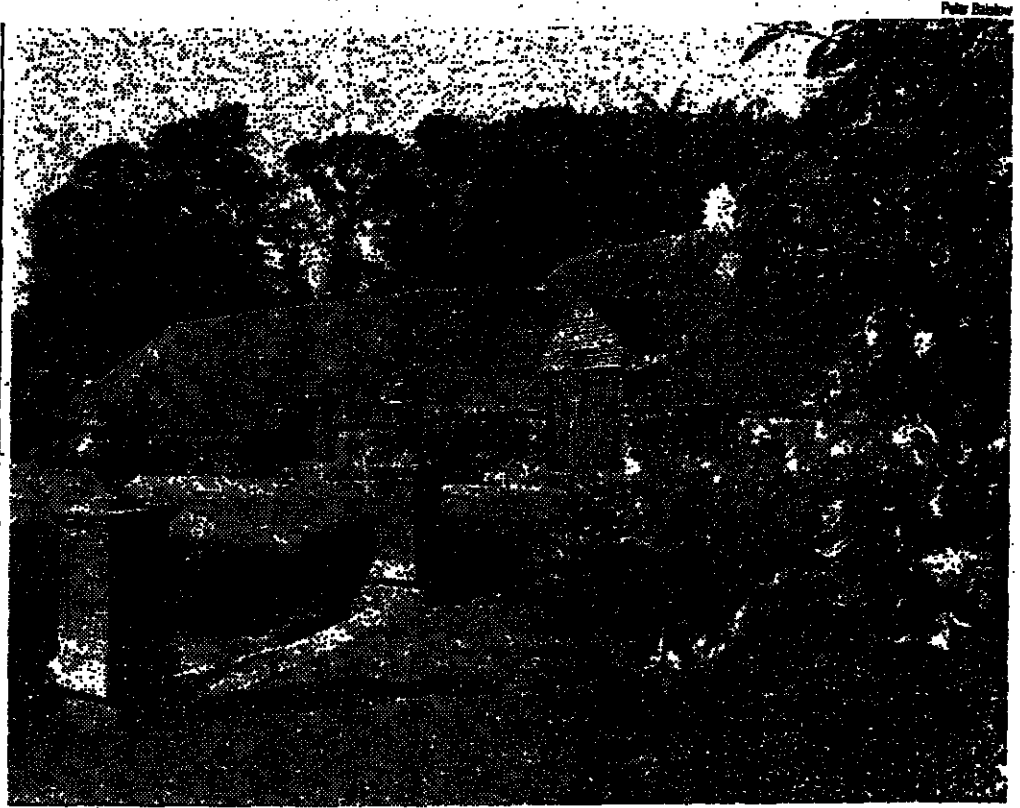
Architecture: The finest collection of architectural books in the world is at the Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place, London, W1 (01-839 3361). Members may borrow books, the cable can use the reading room. Blind: More than 300,000 embossed and large print books are available for the blind and partially sighted. No charge to members of the National Library for the Blind, Cromwell Road, Redbury, Stockport, Cheshire (061 494 0217).

Heraldry: The finest collection of heraldic books is at the College of Arms, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4 (01-248 2782). The best approach is to contact a herald as one of them will almost certainly have to take the book out for you. (They are all listed in the telephone book.) If you are interested in tracing your family tree it is better to start at the Society of Genealogists, 37 Harrington Gardens, London SW7 (01-373 7054).

Media: One of the finest collections of books on the media is at the Thompson Foundation, 4 Broomfield Square, London WC1 (01-404 4300), but it moved quite recently and is still in the throes of reorganization. Non-conformism: The early history of non-conformism is well documented in the material at Dr Williams's Library, 14 Gordon Square, London WC1 (01-487 3727). The library, based on the doctor's own collection, was founded in 1728, 13 years after his death.

Oil: The best library in the country if you are interested in the "downstream" side of the oil business - marketing - is at Shell. The Director of Public Affairs, Shell Centre, London SE1 (01-934 1234), although it is now difficult for people who do not work for the company to gain access. If you are interested in "upstream" (actually finding the stuff and extracting it) it is better to go to the Institute of Petroleum, 61 New Cavendish Street, London W1 (01-638 1004). Resident: Wales boasts what is believed to be the only residential library in the world - St Deiniol's, near Harlech in North Wales, founded in 1896 by W. E. Gladstone, the Victorian prime minister, whose family still lives at the castle. Bed, board and access to 125,000 books costs £11 per day. Details from the Bookings Secretary, St Deiniol's Library, Harlech, Deeside, Cwyd CH5 3D.

Leading independent libraries outside London include the Newcastle Philosophical and Literary Institution, Westcott Road, Newcastle upon Tyne (0632 20119), which has an annual subscription of £24; the Nottingham Subscription Library, Bromley House, Angel Row, Nottingham (0502 473134), annual subscription £20 once you have bought a share for £20; the Leeds Library, 18 Commercial Street, Leeds LS1 6AL (0532 453071); and the Plymouth Athenaeum (0752 286075).



Perfect harmony: Charleston Manor, a garden of refinement covered in dazzling blooms

Intoxicating devotion to roses

Just why roses and grey foliage plants go so well together is beyond me, but they do. It is a simple and efficacious association that is used to great effect at Charleston Manor in West Sussex, a garden of great elegance which was originally laid out in the 1930s by Sir Oswald Birley the painter. It is now tended and maintained by Olivia Headlam.

Charleston Manor sits in a low fold of country side with tree-clad slopes rising gently on either side. The setting is certainly romantic, yet this is not a romantic garden, but rather a work of refinement and reserve, devoted in the main to roses.

They dominate the garden; they scramble over every inch of wall space. At their feet are the grey leaved plants - santolinas, sage, senecio and many others, their foliage setting off to perfection the dazzling blooms above. The design is formal with enclosures of varying sizes formed by flintstone walls and yew hedges.

Garden to visit

Olivia Headlam calls them secret gardens.

Behind the house is a natural amphitheatre dominated on one side by an enormous thorn barn, its russet tiles undulating and its flintstone walls spangled with roses. At the base of these walls, revealing in the dry conditions, is a host of grey plants: lavender, purple sage, and *Helichrysum angustifolium* - the sharply pungent curry plant.

Facing the barn, three long sculptural terraces rise in carefully ordered steps, each riser faced with hedges of clipped yew.

The top terrace leads to a magnificent Norman dovecote. Here the wilderness of a meadow tumbles down to meet close-cropped turf and island beds of hybrid musk roses and a flintstone wall through which an iron gate leads into an orchard.

In the orchard many of the old apple trees have been replaced by iron supports after

succumbing to the weight of the roses which scrambled into their canopies. The scene is indescribable, but Graham Stuart Thomas in his book, *Climbing Roses Old and New*, comes close: "Delicious fragrance of a freshly opened packet of tea with just a hint of apricots."

Michael Young

Charleston Manor, Westdean, West Sussex (0323 870287); is off the A259, two miles east of Seaford on the road to Liphigton. Daily until Oct 14am-5pm, admission adults 75p, children 50p. Closed today and Sun.

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64 Pages of superb colour photographs. Free from Ron Blom. 36 Gold medals at Chelsea make Blom's bulbs some of the world's finest. Many new varieties. Write to Dept T82, Walter Blom & Son, Coombe Lane, Nurseries, Watford WD2 7BH. 24 hour phone 0823 672071.

Transform your garden

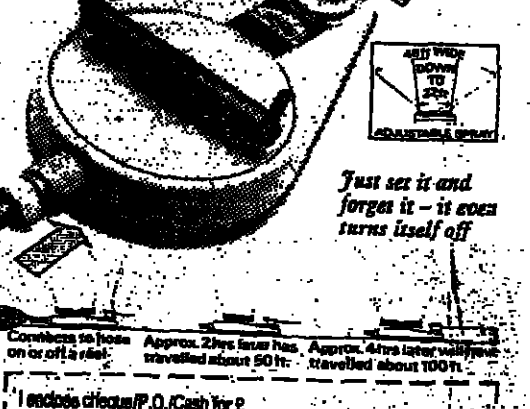
Just add water. Make your pool. In-house! Superior - Europe's most advanced. Garden Centre offer you a FREE* mail order catalogue overflowing with information on fountains, plants, waterfalls, fish etc. Personal colour welcome. Please send two 1st class stamps for postage. Free only to postal applicants. STURLEY WATER GARDENS LIMITED Dept. T14, 114 London Road, Sturley, Notts, LE16 5JH. Tel 0529 620211.

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An ingenious new sprinkler that actually walks by itself

If you prefer to enjoy your garden from the comfort of a deckchair, the new Spraymobile Walking Sprinkler we now offer is a must - whatever the size of your garden. Manufactured in Denmark, it carries the "By Appointment to the Royal Danish Court" seal of quality and is available here in the U.K. exclusively from us. Spraymobile gives an even, rectangular spray pattern up to 110ft x 48ft wide as it "walks" unaided across your lawn in 2 to 4 hours (dependent upon water pressure and spray setting). It is attached by a nylon cord to a metal peg (supplied) which is inserted into the fabric of the lawn. As the spray arm rotates the cord winds slowly pulling it across the lawn. At the end of its walk it turns itself off automatically. You can turn off the tap later at your convenience, enabling you to water when you want to - without being there. (Remember - watering at night achieves maximum effect by minimizing evaporation). In a recent "which" report, really excellent results were achieved, with 3 times the coverage of conventional sprinklers to an ideal saturation depth of approx 1/2in. Also gives 1300 sq ft coverage when used as a mister.



The Spraymobile Walking Sprinkler costs £15.95 + £1.95 p.p. A standard female click-on Hose Connector fits this unit. £1 extra if required. PROMPT DISPATCH. Money refunded if not satisfied. ACCORD and BARGAINOVISA holders can order ANYTIME on 01-550 9888. Callers welcome Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm at Attracta Products Ltd. Post coupon to: Readers Spraymobile Office (Dept T7520) 120 Chislewood Lane London NW2 2DP.

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Beryl Downing on high-tech sports gear

VALUES

Playing for a future

When John McEnroe won his third Wimbledon title last week, he was using a high-speed, high-tech racket made in Britain with a unique construction - a racket that any aspiring champion can own for £69.95.

It is the Dunlop Max 200, made of carbon fibre, one of the toughest, lightweight materials first used in space and now in many sports - golf, fishing, squash, badminton, even for water skis and flippers.

The buzz was to look for its graphite, which the advertising copywriters have adopted, but the scientists deplore as inaccurate. Graphite is the stuff you have in your lead pencils, they say, or a lubricant for machinery. A racket frame consists of carbon fibres made into a type of mesh, but resilient cloth, set in epoxy resin. You can see the ad men's point - the truth has about as much appeal as a diamond would have if you called it carbon.

Cutting this cloth according to your racket and setting it with glue is a labour-intensive affair, which is why many graphite rackets come from Taiwan. Dunlop's contribution has been to develop a combination of carbon fibre and nylon which can be injection moulded. Being thermoplastic it will melt again at a temperature of 260°C but not even McEnroe is likely to generate such heat on a tennis court.

The advantage is the strength, lightness and "dampening factor" - the ability to absorb vibration. Injection-moulded rackets are much less strain on the arm than wood or compressed graphite.

Having seen the speed with which tennis and badminton enthusiasts have accepted graphite, in spite of its higher cost, the Squash Rackets Association (SRA) last year agreed to allow new materials to be used for their rackets, too, although with some reluctance.

"Our concern was not so much to do with speed, which is all about timing and string tensions, but with breakage", Bob Morris, chief executive of the SRA, says.

"Wood breaks in a predictable way and we were not sure that enough tests had been done to make sure that graphite would not break into thousands of needle sharp splinters, or, conversely, that it might be too strong, so that the human frame would break more easily than the racket if it was hit hard enough."

But the International Federation seemed, in a hurry to accept the new technology and conducted a postal ballot in which we were overruled by the rest of the world, and so far these have been no instances of any ill effects.

So most specialist sports shops now offer a wide range of rackets. In London, Lillywhites in Piccadilly have more than 1,000 rackets, wall to wall - more than 100 models in various grip sizes for tennis, 50 for squash, 30 for badminton, at prices from £9.95 for the cheapest badminton to £450 for the most expensive tennis racket - chained to the rail like a fur coat.

The main reason for paying more for graphite is that it can make the game more enjoyable and less strain as the racket is lighter and easier to control. Nevertheless, David Watts, equipment buyer at Lillywhites, does not believe in encouraging his customers to buy graphite just because it is the "in-thing".

Golf was the first sport to take advantage of the material when it was new 10 years ago, and some players found the lighter clubs easier to swing. But Watts, who was a golf professional for seven years, prefers to use a conventional club because he "likes to feel where the head is".

The same principle applies to fishing rods. Graphite is less tiring for continuous casting but the rods do have certain drawbacks - they can be too light in certain circumstances, they conduct electricity and could be dangerous in a thunderstorm, and they have a tendency to fracture.

The most expensive of the space age materials is boron which, like carbon, is an element which can be made into fibres. It is slightly lighter and stronger than carbon and much more expensive so it is very rarely used alone.

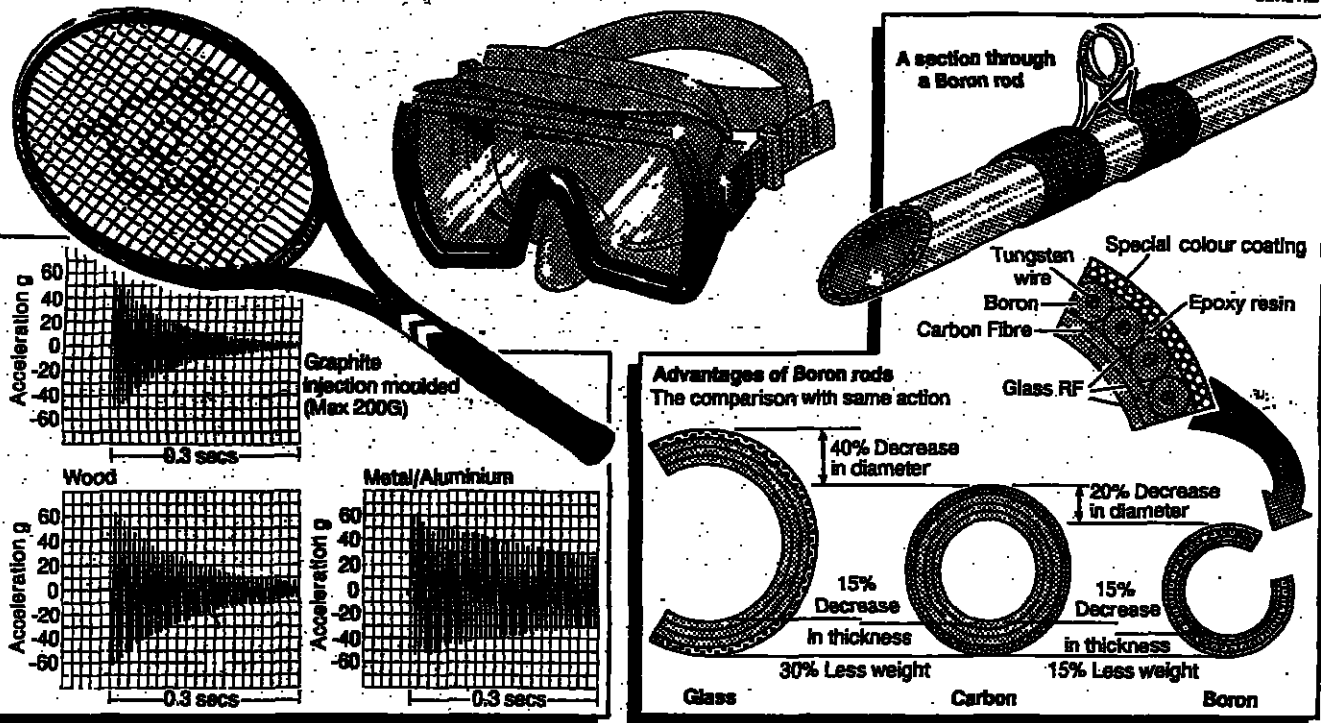
The largest users of boron cloth in the country are the Japanese company Daiwa in Southsdyde, who have six new boron carbon rods in their range this year, costing between £99.99 and £120. McHardys of Carlisle have a range available in blank form or as partly built models from £63 for a 9ft blank to £90 for an 11ft partly built rod.

High technology has also bowled the cricket world over. Alfred Reader of Teston, Kent, has invented a cricket ball injected with polyurethane instead of being stitched over cork and wadded wool. The result is a ball which the company claims will last for 740 hours or 10,000 overs without becoming misshapen. The price, £9.95, compares well with a conventional, good-quality Indian ball which costs about £9.50.

Although the high technology ball is not yet accepted for Test matches, demand has been so great particularly in Australia that Reader's have had to stop



Eight young members of the Park Langley Lawn Tennis Club in Beckenham, Kent. Left to right, top row: Dunlop Max 200G graphite £69.95; Prince Pro, aluminium £79.95; Wilson Avenger graphite/fibreglass £69.95; Pro-Kennex Boron Ace £125.95. Bottom row: Stuart Ergonom graphite £125; Stasenger Panther Plus aluminium £29.95; Fischer Stan Smith, carbon/fibreglass £75; Kneissl Red Star, boron/fibreglass, £75. All from Lillywhites



Top: Dunlop Max 200G with charts showing the rate at which vibration travels along the player's arm when using rackets of different materials. The absorption rate of injection-moulded graphite is 73, compared with wood 60 and aluminium 19. Centre: Silicone mask from the selection with clear side-panels. Top right: Section through a boron fishing rod with, below, the comparative thicknesses and circumferences of rod required when using glass, carbon and boron

Having been frightened by a maths mistress when young, I never occurred to me that sums could be fun. But a new set of pop-up books looks as much of a delight to parents as to children. There are four Maths-Pops by Ray Marshall & Korky Paul (Kestrel £2.50 each) - addition, subtraction (pictured here), multiplication and division. Every page shows an amusingly illustrated, simple sum and to discover the answer the child pulls a tab or lifts a flap. The drawings are colourful and witty, which is more than you can say for a calculator. From the Penguin Book Shop in The Market, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-373 7850) or telephone 01-759 1984 for local stockists.

Key advice

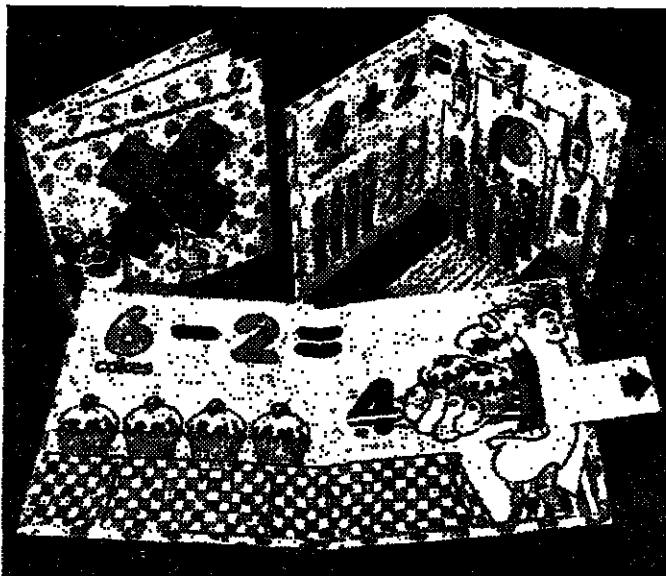
Have you ever tried to buy or sell a second-hand piano? The chances are that neither party in the deal (if it was a private transaction) had the faintest idea of the instrument's value, and what you both needed was the help of Ronnie Falk.

Mr Falk's interest in music began as a hobby and developed into expertise. For four years he was manager of the keyboard instruments division at Chappell in Bond Street, and he has recently established his own piano advisory and inspection service.

SHOPFRONT

If you are thinking of buying a piano from a private owner or a dealer, Ronnie Falk will inspect it, evaluate the condition and provide a written report. He will advise whether an instrument is worth reconditioning

(costs can vary from £200 for a minor repair to an upright to £3,000 for a major reconditioning of a grand piano), can recommend restorers and put clients in touch with rental services. His advice is independent and impartial, and he can save any owner a good deal of unnecessary expense.



Foodnote

I do not bless the day that Wells invented the Cornetto. I live by a river and every time I see a weekend driver with a pair of ears in his hands I think he is the possessor in their ice-cream commercial. However, they have just made up for their misdeed with "O Sole Mio" by introducing the most delicious commercially made ice-cream cones and fruit sorbets I have sampled. Called Carte d'Or, their tastes and textures are well worth your consideration.

Of the ice-creams my favourites are Mocha Coffee, £1.08, Dark Chocolate, £1.08, and Walnut Supreme, £1.16. The other flavours are Vanilla Elite, Strawberry Royale and Cherry Kirsch. All come in half-litre packs. The three sorbets, cassia (best), lemon and orange, cost £1.54 per litre. The ice-creams and sorbets are available at most Asda stores, the sorbets only at branches of Tesco at £1.69.

EATING OUT

A touring testament to imperial excess

This week we report on a 42-course Imperial Chinese Banquet currently "on tour" in England. Those who complain of feeling hungry an hour after eating a Chinese meal may have to revise their opinions...

The Kung Tengk Yue Yin, or Emperor's State Banquet, is a culinary legacy of the Ch'ing dynasty which flourished in China from 1644 to 1912. The Ch'ing emperors were, it seems, a discerning crew, since they set about collating recipes and cooking methods from most of their provinces to ultimately create a repertoire of 42 dishes for use at state banquets.

Despite the twentieth-century revolutions, this testament to imperial excess has survived, partly through word of mouth, partly through text-books, and has now been given the official sanction of the People's Republic. A team of four master chefs from Peking (there are usually only 20 in the whole of China), assisted by two other chefs, a director and a supervisor, have now brought Kung Tengk Yue Yin to Britain.

The tour has been organized by Mr Chu Yan Chan, proprietor of the Looon Fung restaurant in London's Soho. The banquet is being served there daily at 7.30pm until July 28, when the tour spends a week in the less-than-imperial setting of Birmingham's Bull Ring, and a final week in Manchester.

The London visit has created a good deal of excitement within the Chinese community - witness the banners in Gerrard Street - despite the cost of £30 a head. Western gastronomes, too, have been keen.

The atmosphere at Looon Fung is informal despite the air of breathless excitement surrounding the event - the accompanying press release is a masterpiece of the early Whicker dynasty. Large, circular tables, packed with Chinese families, while Europeans, generally in pairs, sit in groups of eight or ten so that waitresses can easily offer help if required.

Although the original full banquet did actually consist of 42 courses, in the interests of economy and humanity, it has been "broken up" into three weekly menus of 14 dishes each. The menus seem to offer an admirable balance between meats, poultry, fish, seafood, soups, vegetables and sweets (essentially two of each), and a mixture of regional cooking methods, such as braising, steaming (Cantonese-style), deep-frying (Peking-style) and shallow frying (Shanghai).

The most unusual feature of the meal, however, is likely to be its presentation, particularly among the earlier courses, where the elements are virtually "sculptured" on to the plate. So "Cuckoo in a cherry tree" is effectively the title of a picture

in food. Cold chicken slices, barbecued pork, coloured seaweeds, cucumbers and vegetables are beautifully arranged, and you may have to wait while fellow diners photograph it before you shake the cuckoo from the tree.

Similarly, the floral hors d'oeuvres which accompany this are little dishes of cold meats depicting a variety of animals from peacocks to pandas. It is a pointed reminder of how nouvelle cuisine gained much of its presentational flair from the East.

Almost inevitably, these dishes don't quite live up to their visual impact - many of them simply had their taste killed by being too chilled. Indeed, with such a large menu, a roller-coaster effect soon sets in: anticipation of the next item on the menu, followed by thrills or disappointment according to taste.

The shark's fin consommé (flecked with shreds of soft fins) seemed to please people, but the fish maw, studded with chicken "puffs", was a bland, slushy mess. The braised sea cucumber with spring onion was a spicy slushy mess.

The menu's central section was based around three winning creations: huge, tender "yung yang" prawns in a colourful sweet and sour sauce; Peking duck, served with pancakes, spring onions and plum sauce; and tremendous "fragrant chicken legs" deep-fried with a crisp, cinnamon-flavoured skin.

The rest of the meal wandered through chilli and vinegar fish (whole steamed sea bass in a rather sour gravy), sautéed snow peas (in fact they were green beans) with mushrooms and braised "monkey-head" mushroom (no prizes for what it looked like).

Desserts took up the pictorial theme with tiny, minuscule-filled pastries fashioned as birds and nests. Throughout the meal, copious pots of tea were provided - just tip up the lid if you require a fresh pot - although a bottle of the house Piesporter (£7) is a decent accompaniment.

The overall experience fails to conjure up the mystical past of the Ch'ing emperors - most of the dishes were too familiar for that - but there should be enough on the menu to please contemporary mortals. Forthcoming attractions include sweet and sour sauce, and steamed duck with yellow flower wine sauce.

Stan Hey

The Emperor's Banquet (£30 a head, booking essential) is at Looon Fung, 37-39 Gerrard Street, London, W1 (437 5429) nightly at 7.30pm until July 28. From July 30 until Aug 4 it is available at New World Restaurant, 308 Bull Ring Centre, Birmingham (021 643 0035); and from Aug 6 to 11 at Kwok Man, 28-32 Princess Street, Manchester (061 228 2620).

DRINK

Strange brews from foreign waters

Despite bleating by the big brewers that more tax on beer and less tax on wine (brought about by the recent European Community directive) would ruin their industry, beer drinkers, it seems, do have something to thank the Community for.

Until now most British pubs and clubs have been tied houses and therefore obliged to sell the beers from the controlling brewery only, regardless of the preferences of the publican and customers. But another directive could put an end to this irritating tied house system at long last.

It states that the publican of any new tenancy negotiated this year is now free to buy any "beer or other drinks" provided they differ either in "composition, appearance or taste" to those supplied by his brewing landlord. What is more, all tenancies will have to fall in line with this "free house" system by the end of 1985. This should mean that Britain's beer drinkers will be given the opportunity to drink all sorts of unusual foreign beers and lagers in their local pubs in addition to the ones that are usually on tap. In the meantime, however, the brewers are likely to defend their monopoly fiercely and to argue the issue with every tenant.

The main difference between our traditional British ales and stouts and the lighter continental beers or lagers is the method of fermentation used. The old way, which some purists still insist is the best, was to top-ferment the beer (the yeast collects at the top of the fermentation tank), which resulted in a gutsy full-flavoured brew such as ale or stout. The new method of bottom-fermentation (when as you might expect, the position of the yeast is reversed) produces a lighter, steadier, and more uniform brew such as lager, with considerably more fizz than the top-fermented beers.

These days, with lightness and freshness apparently the most desired qualities in a



Strong stuff: Bottles imported by the Special Beer Company

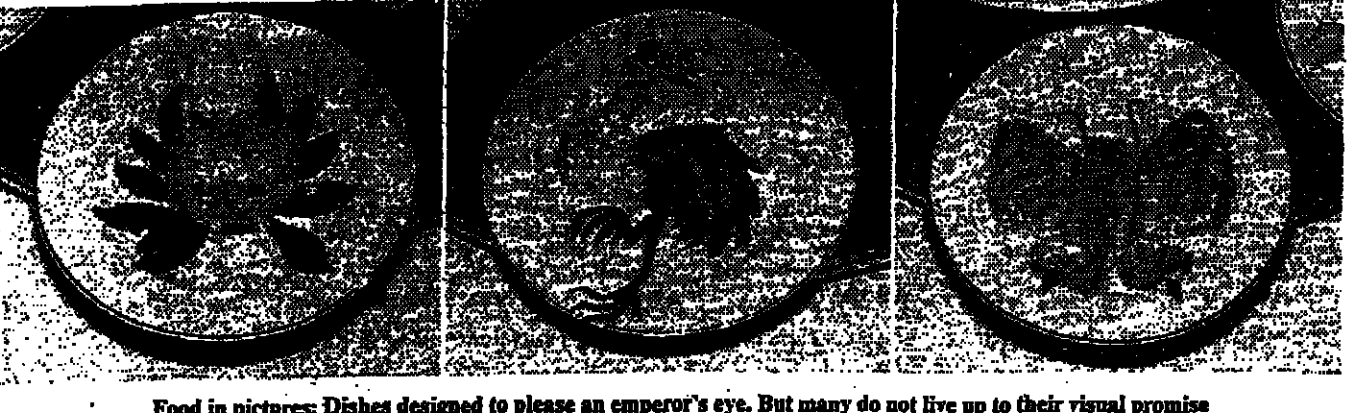
and bottled in other (mostly European) countries. My own favourites among their 12-strong range include the elegant, fruitily Molson Canadian beer with its attractive flowery bouquet and the dark-gold Gulpener Pilsner Beer from Holland with its fragrant hoppy character.

If you fancy the idea of a fairly strong beer to drink by itself without food, Austria's Kaiser Premium (also from The Special Beer Company) with its pale gold colour and full, firm, fruity taste would be a good choice. Belgium's Grimbergen Bière D'Abbaye makes a good, strong, hoppy, post-prandial beer. However, the star of the range is the French L'Esprit de Paris, whose amber-gold colour and strong flowery-hoppy taste, with smoky, malty flavours coming through as well, is superb - as good on its own as it is with food.

Oddbins carries the widest range of foreign beers and lagers of all the off-licence chains. Good buys from their branches include the original beer from Pilsen in Czechoslovakia, Pilsner Urquell, whose big, positive, hoppy taste and smell could wash down most foods with ease; the rich, hoppy Alsace beer, Adelshoff Tradition has a similar quality. Holsten Diät Pils from Germany, with its malty bouquet and amazingly strong yeasty-hoppy taste is even better, but best of all in the Oddbins range is Löwenbräu Special Export, from Munich, with its golden-amber colour and deliciously strong malty-hoppy taste.

Jane MacQuitty

The Special Beer Company's beers are available at branches of Bottoms Up and selected Peter Dominie shops, priced around 55p and in pubs priced around £1. If you have any difficulty in tracking down your nearest stockist contact the Special Beer Company, 39 Floral Street, London WC2 (079 3281). The Oddbins range is Löwenbräu Special Export, from Munich, with its golden-amber colour and deliciously strong malty-hoppy taste.



Food in pictures: Dishes designed to please an emperor's eye. But many do not live up to their visual promise

FAMILY LIFE

The London Butterfly House

Close encounter with bugs and butterflies

Jimmy Connors was not the only person to take a beating last weekend. I too was on the receiving end of several well-aimed blows - though it was my sentiments rather than my service which were under attack.

A couple of teenagers told me I should be ashamed of myself for encouraging people to go to the zoo to look at the "bugs" who are far superior to us on every level; and my friend and colleague, Philip Oakes, who spent three years at London Zoo making films on animal behaviour delivered a succinct summary of reasons for never keeping big mammals in cages or small enclosures.

I think I'm on safer territory when it comes to butterflies and moths, though I shall probably receive a reprimand from a dotty globe-trotting lepidopterist telling me that if I want to see *delias eucharis*, alias the Common Jezebel, as she should be seen, then I had best travel to Asia. Since I am not that strongly inclined, nor as eccentric as a writer friend who opened a paragraph and a travel feature with "Being in need of an envelope, I went to Manila", I shall content myself with an occasional visit to a place such as The London Butterfly House in Syon Park.

The Butterfly House was opened in July 1981. It comprises a large glasshouse, planted with tropical and temperate plants and with several small ponds stocked with terrapins and gold fish, in which hundreds of butterflies and moths - mostly tropical - fly freely. There are also breeding boxes in which visitors may see pupae at various stages of

development and a recent addition are some Chinese quails, pretty earthbound creatures whose presence is none the less functional since they feed off certain ants and spiders with a taste for caterpillars and butterflies.

A separate area houses written and pictorial descriptions of some of the many species of butterflies and moths. Several of the glass-fronted cages contain live insects such as tarantulas and stick insects. There is also a butterfly shop. And from next week, visitors will be able to visit the new British butterfly enclosure which will be opened on Monday by David Bellamy.

The day I visited was a scorcher. The shade of the great oaks in Syon Park beckoned but instead I passed under a sequined model of the Monarch butterfly down a nettle-lined path to the Butterfly House.

The butterflies were having a ball - the air alive with vibrant flashes of colour and texture. The human audience was clearly enjoying itself, although every forehead dripped (the atmosphere is very humid) and palms were as sticky as the nectar which some of the insects were sipping.

Parties of school-children were busying themselves with worksheets or darting after the butterflies in the hope that they would alight on hands or faces. Others peered under leaves, looking for moths sleeping or butterflies mating, exclaiming over unexpected swarms of caterpillars or the Owl butterfly, so called because the markings on the underside of its wings resemble the eye of an owl - a useful device for warning off



Taking wing: The metamorphoses of the Peacock butterfly

would-be predators. Two older children were arguing about the word *ephemeral* and whether or not it could be applied to creatures that live for up to eight months, such as the Atlas moth.

Several small boys were carrying suspicious-looking jars with brown paper covers ("No sir, these are my own grubs"); and one poor little bespectacled lad was hiding under a buddleia because, he explained, "butterflies aren't supposed to be that big". I know what he meant. Some of the

specimens look almost the size of a small bat or bird - the female butterflies for example, from the *papilionidae* can have wingspans of up to 25cm, and to a timid child all that velvety fluttering at close quarters might well be disturbing.

I wanted to stay and enjoy these spectacular creatures - beautifully textured, their colours and shapes as iridescent as any Klee painting, but I was also badly in need of fresh air, however arid.

I went next to inspect the British butterfly section, an

open air extension enclosed only by fine mesh and posts, where, it is hoped, representatives of some 20 to 30 of the 60 species of British butterfly, once introduced, will decide to settle in and multiply. Tom Fox, who is responsible for organizing, ordering (as many as 400 butterflies every three weeks) and varying numbers of pupae every few days) and for maintaining the Butterfly House, introduced me to a charming retired schoolteacher - Arthur Moppett - who seems to have played a large part in getting this particular project off the ground.

Arthur is an amateur, but knowledgeable, naturalist of many years standing. He helped with the design of the British butterfly section - marking out and planting the three separate areas where it is hoped that the butterflies will feel at home: heath, chalkland and damp woodland. He has also planted a herbaceous border that he calls "the local pub", which he hopes all the butterflies will visit.

By this time next year, visitors should have a pretty good idea of whether or not the British butterfly section - by definition now only at the experimental stage - has worked. If it has, they will be able to see a variety of butterflies, both common and relatively rare, at closer quarters and in greater proximity than they can almost anywhere else in the British Isles.

Most of us know by now that the British countryside and the creatures that inhabit it are under constant threat. Several British butterflies are already extinct and schemes such as this may do a little to redress the balance.

Judy Froshaug

The London Butterfly House, Syon Park, Brentford, Middlesex (SW6 7272), is open every day of the year except Christmas Day and Boxing Day from 10am-5pm in summer, 10am-3pm in winter. Educational visits can be organized and work sheets are available for various age groups. Adults £1.50, children and pensioners 80p.

Outings

CAMBRIDGE FESTIVAL CARNIVAL FAIR: Grand opening ceremony for this year's festival starts with a carnival parade through the city centre to Parker's Place, where from 2pm onwards entertainers include folk bands, morris dancers, fire-eater and jugglers, real ale bar, refreshments and festival fireworks display at 9.45pm. Cambridge, today from 1.30pm. Free.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRY FAIR AND SHEEP DOG TRIAL: Essentially an agricultural show but with many country pursuits, activities and craft skills demonstrated. Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Gravel Hill, Hordesdon, Portsmouth, Hampshire. Today from 10am-6pm. Admission £2 per car.

GARDEN GAMES DAY: Very much a family day, with the Walled Garden given over to a variety of games including croquet and bowls. Berrington Hall, 8 miles north-west of York on the Thirsk Road (0804 470715). Today, 2pm-6pm. Adults £1.70.

BASTILLE DAY CONCERT: The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra plays in a concert guaranteed to please the family audiences, with music by Offenbach, Couperin, Saint-Saëns, Berlioz, Gershwin and Ravel. Kenwood Lakeside, Kenwood, Hampstead Lane, London NW3. Today at 8pm. Adults: decolchairs £2, grass only £1.20; children: decolchairs 80p, grass 60p.

THE LONDON BUBBLE: Children who are on holiday might enjoy two workshops, "Disco Fit" and "Body Popping". Redwood Park, Off Worton Road, Isleworth, Middlesex (Further information 485 3420). Disco Fit on Thurs at 11am, 50p; Body Popping on Thurs and Fri, 4.30-6.30pm, free.

CHILDREN'S CIRCUS WORKSHOP: Organized by Gerry Collis and fully supervised, children aged over eight will be able to try trapeze and rope walking, and be taught juggling and acrobatics by experts from the Cotte Circus School. Cotte Big Top, Stroutham Common, Wilt and Thurs, 10.30am-noon, £1 per session. (For further information ring Mark Borkowski on 534 2178).

CHESS

On the attack with a Sicilian Defence

The ever-increasing popularity of the Sicilian Defence these days is reflected in the great number of books that are written about it. The reason why this defence is so popular is that it is essentially a counter-attack and unless it is conducted in that way, it often leads to early and utter disaster.

As one might have expected, most of the books on the subject sent to me recently come from the publishers Batsford. Some are very good indeed. The one I liked best is *Beating the Sicilian* by Dr John Nunn (£5.95). The treatment was refreshingly original since, instead of showing how one can reach equality with the defence, the learned and aggressive doctor demonstrates how we should win against it.

Two more conventionally good books are *Sicilian: Pawn* by Mark Taimanov, (Batsford, £5.95) and *Sicilian: The* by Dr John Nunn (£5.95).

There is also something about the Sicilian Defence in *An opening repertoire for the attacking player* by Raymond Keene and David Levy, which is published in algebraic notation, also by Batsford and is priced at £6.50. I cannot, however, agree with the authors' choice of the 2 P-QB3 variation as the best way of gaining an attack against the Sicilian. Tricky and out of the way perhaps, but it is in reality the best way of losing with an attack against a soundly played Sicilian.

Equally meretricious is the so-called *Counter-attack* which the authors advise using against the Caro-Kann Defence. I well remember the Yugoslav Alexander Matkovic trying it against me in a European zonal tournament many years ago. It did indeed result in a fierce attack - but for the wrong side, since I won with a most

emphatic counter-attack in the centre. One of the virtues of John Nunn's book is the number of beautiful games with which he illustrates his theme; here is one of them, played and won by that great dynamic genius, Mikhail Tal, in the tournament at Stockholm in 1976.

White: M. Tal. Black: U. Andersson. Sicilian Defence.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6 5. Nc3 Nf6 6. Bg5 d5 7. e5 Ne4 8. Bxf6 gxf6 9. Qf3 Qc7 10. Bb5 Bc8 11. 0-0-0 Bb7 12. Qh5 Bxh5 13. g4 Bg6 14. h4 Bf5 15. g5 Bg6 16. h5 Bf5 17. g6 Bg6 18. h6 Bf5 19. g7 Bg6 20. h7 Bf5 21. g8 Bg6 22. h9 Bf5 23. g9 Bg6 24. h10 Bf5 25. g10 Bg6 26. h11 Bf5 27. g11 Bg6 28. h12 Bf5 29. g12 Bg6 30. h13 Bf5 31. g13 Bg6 32. h14 Bf5 33. g14 Bg6 34. h15 Bf5 35. g15 Bg6 36. h16 Bf5 37. g16 Bg6 38. h17 Bf5 39. g17 Bg6 40. h18 Bf5 41. g18 Bg6 42. h19 Bf5 43. g19 Bg6 44. h20 Bf5 45. g20 Bg6 46. h21 Bf5 47. g21 Bg6 48. h22 Bf5 49. g22 Bg6 50. h23 Bf5 51. g23 Bg6 52. h24 Bf5 53. g24 Bg6 54. h25 Bf5 55. g25 Bg6 56. h26 Bf5 57. g26 Bg6 58. h27 Bf5 59. g27 Bg6 60. h28 Bf5 61. g28 Bg6 62. h29 Bf5 63. g29 Bg6 64. h30 Bf5 65. g30 Bg6 66. h31 Bf5 67. g31 Bg6 68. h32 Bf5 69. g32 Bg6 70. h33 Bf5 71. g33 Bg6 72. h34 Bf5 73. g34 Bg6 74. h35 Bf5 75. g35 Bg6 76. h36 Bf5 77. g36 Bg6 78. h37 Bf5 79. g37 Bg6 80. h38 Bf5 81. g38 Bg6 82. h39 Bf5 83. g39 Bg6 84. h40 Bf5 85. g40 Bg6 86. h41 Bf5 87. g41 Bg6 88. h42 Bf5 89. g42 Bg6 90. h43 Bf5 91. g43 Bg6 92. h44 Bf5 93. g44 Bg6 94. h45 Bf5 95. g45 Bg6 96. h46 Bf5 97. g46 Bg6 98. h47 Bf5 99. g47 Bg6 100. h48 Bf5 101. g48 Bg6 102. h49 Bf5 103. g49 Bg6 104. h50 Bf5 105. g50 Bg6 106. h51 Bf5 107. g51 Bg6 108. h52 Bf5 109. g52 Bg6 110. h53 Bf5 111. g53 Bg6 112. h54 Bf5 113. g54 Bg6 114. h55 Bf5 115. g55 Bg6 116. h56 Bf5 117. g56 Bg6 118. h57 Bf5 119. g57 Bg6 120. h58 Bf5 121. g58 Bg6 122. h59 Bf5 123. g59 Bg6 124. h60 Bf5 125. g60 Bg6 126. h61 Bf5 127. g61 Bg6 128. h62 Bf5 129. g62 Bg6 130. h63 Bf5 131. g63 Bg6 132. h64 Bf5 133. g64 Bg6 134. h65 Bf5 135. g65 Bg6 136. h66 Bf5 137. g66 Bg6 138. h67 Bf5 139. g67 Bg6 140. h68 Bf5 141. g68 Bg6 142. h69 Bf5 143. g69 Bg6 144. h70 Bf5 145. g70 Bg6 146. h71 Bf5 147. g71 Bg6 148. h72 Bf5 149. g72 Bg6 150. h73 Bf5 151. g73 Bg6 152. h74 Bf5 153. g74 Bg6 154. h75 Bf5 155. g75 Bg6 156. h76 Bf5 157. g76 Bg6 158. h77 Bf5 159. g77 Bg6 160. h78 Bf5 161. g78 Bg6 162. h79 Bf5 163. g79 Bg6 164. h80 Bf5 165. g80 Bg6 166. h81 Bf5 167. g81 Bg6 168. h82 Bf5 169. g82 Bg6 170. h83 Bf5 171. g83 Bg6 172. h84 Bf5 173. 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Bg6 604. h300 Bf5 605. g300 Bg6 606. h301 Bf5 607. g301 Bg6 608. h302 Bf5 609. g302 Bg6 610. h303 Bf5 611. g303 Bg6 612. h304 Bf5 613. g304 Bg6 614. h305 Bf5 615. g305 Bg6 616. h306 Bf5 617. g306 Bg6 618. h307 Bf5 619. g307 Bg6 620. h308 Bf5 621. g308 Bg6 622. h309 Bf5 623. g309 Bg6 624. h310 Bf5 625. g310 Bg6 626. h311 Bf5 627. g311 Bg6 628. h312 Bf5 629. g312 Bg6 630. h313 Bf5 631. g313 Bg6 632. h314 Bf5 633. g314 Bg6 634. h315 Bf5 635. g315 Bg6 636. h316 Bf5 637. g316 Bg6 638. h317 Bf5 639. g317 Bg6 640. h318 Bf5 641. g318 Bg6 642. h319 Bf5 643. g319 Bg6 644. h320 Bf5 645. g320 Bg6 646. h321 Bf5 647. g321 Bg6 648. h322 Bf5 649. g322 Bg6 650. h323 Bf5 651. g323 Bg6 652. h324 Bf5 653. g324 Bg6 654. h325 Bf5 655. g325 Bg6 656. h326 Bf5 657. g326 Bg6 658. h327 Bf5 659. g327 Bg6 660. h328 Bf5 661. g328 Bg6 662. h329 Bf5 663. g329 Bg6 664. h330 Bf5 665. g330 Bg6 666. h331 Bf5 667. g331 Bg6 668. h332 Bf5 669. g332 Bg6 670. h333 Bf5 671. g333 Bg6 672. h334 Bf5 673. g334 Bg6 674. h335 Bf5 675. g335 Bg6 676. h336 Bf5 677. g336 Bg6 678. h337 Bf5 679. g337 Bg6 680. h338 Bf5 681. g338 Bg6 682. h339 Bf5 683. g339 Bg6 684. h340 Bf5 685. g340 Bg6 686. h341 Bf5 687. g341 Bg6 688. h342 Bf5 689. g342 Bg6 690. h343 Bf5 691. g343 Bg6 692. h344 Bf5 693. g344 Bg6 694. h345 Bf5 695. g345 Bg6 696. h346 Bf5 697. g346 Bg6 698. h347 Bf5 699. g347 Bg6 700. h348 Bf5 701. g348 Bg6 702. h349 Bf5 703. g349 Bg6 704. h350 Bf5 705. g350 Bg6 706. h351 Bf5 707. g351 Bg6 708. h352 Bf5 709. g352 Bg6 710. h353 Bf5 711. g353 Bg6 712. h354 Bf5 713. g354 Bg6 714. h355 Bf5 715. g355 Bg6 716. h356 Bf5 717. g356 Bg6 718. h357 Bf5 719. g357 Bg6 720. h358 Bf5 721. g358 Bg6 722. h359 Bf5 723. g359 Bg6 724. h360 Bf5 725. g360 Bg6 726. h361 Bf5 727. g361 Bg6 728. h362 Bf5 729. g362 Bg6 730. h363 Bf5 731. g363 Bg6 732.

Rock records of the month

REVIEW

Pop with crackle and snap in short supply

Although it contains a couple of the finest pieces he has ever recorded, *Goodbye Cruel World* re-emphasizes the dangers inherent in Elvis Costello's fecundity. The appearance of nine albums in the eight years since his debut with *My Aim Is True* is not least testimony to the sheer enthusiasm with which Costello approaches music, but it is to be said that he is now spreading his remarkable imagination too thinly.

Even allowing for the effects of familiarity, his latest effort cannot be said to rival *This Year's Model*, *Armed Forces*, *Get Happy* or *Trust in Who He Needs No Glasses*. All too often he seems to be writing on automatic pilot, producing melodies which virtually amount to self-caricatures of lyrics from which the once characteristic crackle and snap have been expunged.

The metaphor of "Sour Milk-Combs" obstinately refuses to yield the riddle of "The Great Unknown" and "Worthless Things" simply do not seem worth the effort, and the images of "The Deportees Club" offer a miniature lexicon of Costello's personal clichés.

Twelvemans alone tell us that the heart which created the tragic beauty of "Alison" and "Mystery" is still beating within Costello. His version of "I Wanna Be Loved", a soul ballad rescued from an obscure anthology, floats on an ambiguous harmonic scheme embellished by a morbidly plodding bass guitar, a chilling string-synthesizer line, and a highly expressive tenor saxophone solo by Gary Barnacle. Its minor-key pace and simple but pointed lyrics set Costello up for one of his most affecting vocal performances, enhanced by the background harmonies of Scritti Politti's Cretia Gartside.

"The Only Flame in Town" on which another guest, Daryl Hall (of Hall and Oates), joins Costello for a duet, is an expressly pretty mid-tempo tune which again benefits from Barnacle's saxophone interjections and from the clear, crisp production of Clive Langer and Ian Winstanley.

Prince, the prodigious young American singer, writer and multiple instrumentalist, has at last reached what may be the most exciting stage of his career. His apprenticeship served, his reputation assured among critics and style-setters, he now finds the most audience catching up with him, leading to immediate success for *Purple*.

Elvis Costello *Goodbye Cruel World* (F-Bear ZL 70317)
Prince & The New Power Generation *Purple Rain* (Warner Bros. 925110-1)
Chairmen of the Board *Salute the General* (R-D-L LP001)
Various Artists *Where the Girls Are* (Kent 018)

Rain and its trailer single, "When Doves Fly".

Prince's audacious synthesis of soul music and electro-rock parallels Sly Stone's invention of "schizoid soul" in the mid-1960s, later picked up for widespread consumption by the Motown producer Norman Whitfield. Prince's Whitfield is, of course, Michael Jackson.

The relationship between Jackson and Prince can also be described in terms of the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. Whereas Jackson is now well-known in almost every home, Prince presents a darker image, with intimations of threats both social and sexual. *Purple Rain* is less blatant in this regard than some of his earlier work, but the sense of danger remains strong. Much of the music here is within the pop's limitations, brilliantly creative. The flashy strut of "Let's Go Crazy" and "Baby, I'm a Star" leaves the latter-day Stones stuck at the starting gate, while "When Doves Fly" demonstrates his unusual ability to combine ethereal textures (evoking electronic drums overblown keyboards) with singing of genuine tenderness. Jimi Hendrix could do that sometimes, too, and Hendrix is someone else whose talent and influence

are powerfully recalled by Prince's work.

What Prince has that Sly Stone and Jimi Hendrix sadly lacked is discipline. *Purple Rain* may seem loosely organized, but its sense of informality is a potent ingredient in Prince's recipe, and is not achieved without hard work. He can overreach himself at times - the title song, which ends the record, collapses under the weight of its orchestral coda - but what he is doing makes the bulk of current pop sound timid.

Among the best of the recent flood of pop and soul releases is *Salute the General*, a collection of the Chairman of the Board's greatest hits from the early 1970s, when the vocal trio led by the distinctive voice of "General" Norman Johnson enjoyed success with "Give Me Just a Little More Time", "Everything's Tuesday", "You've Got Me Dangling on a String" and others.

The most successful of several recent anthologies of girl-group records from the early 1960s is *Where the Girls Are*, which contains only one well-known item - Ruby and the Romantics' lovely "Our Day Will Come" - but many obscure gems. The Charmettes' businesslike "Please Don't Kiss Me Again", Robin Ward's swooning "In His Car", Barbara Chandler's archetypal "It Hurts to Be Sixteen" and the Supphires' comparatively sophisticated "Let's Break Up for a While" are genuine treasures.

Richard Williams



Tarnished talent: Elvis Costello, running out of fresh ideas

Diverse strains that will stand the test of time

It took The Special AKA two years of hard graft to produce *In The Studio*. But the time has been well spent; the fruits of their labour are very impressive indeed.

Jerry Dammers, the band's leader, has produced a natural extension of his earlier groundbreaking two-tone sound. What began as a project based in Coventry, a sort of musical co-operative, has become a sophisticated excursion into seemingly diverse strains. Like African reggae and free flowing jazz, yet Dammers never sacrifices stylistic cohesion for the sake of variety. Several of the tracks have already made their mark as singles but careful re-mixing and the musicians' wealth of ideas combine to create an album that will stand the test of time.

The Special AKA are a melting pot of talent, finding room for experienced horn players like Rico Rodriguez and Dick Guthrie, while introducing the comparatively new vocal talents of Rhoda Dakar and Stan Campbell, a young stylist with some of Sly Stone's raw energy and sensuous phrasing.

Dammers' humorous anecdotal lyrics are pitched against the best in contemporary pop brass and any number of funky rhythm and blues motifs. Whether the songs deal with the superficial appeal of hip London night life, the perils of alcohol or more serious subject matter like the imprisonment of Nelson Mandela, the feel for the basic musical ingredients remains paramount. Perhaps the strangest song is

The Special AKA *In The Studio* (Chrysalis CHR TT 5038)
Spandau Ballet *Parade* (Chrysalis CBL 1473)
Tom Verlaine *Cover* (Virgin V2514)
John Hammond *Spoonful* (Edsel ED 129)

one Dammers sings called "What I Like Most About You Is Your Girlfriend". Elvis Costello liked it enough to play it on his recent solo tour of the United States. There's credibility for you.

Spandau Ballet, labelmates of The Special AKA, return with their fourth album in three years. They are a prolific group who enjoy constant chart action and are considered to be at the forefront of the post New Romantic pop wave.

Writer and guitarist Gary Kemp, a graduate soul boy, undoubtedly understands clubland romances and the eight songs here seldom waver from teenage angst - boy-meets-girl but can't quite solve the dilemmas of the age-old equation.

I suppose you have to be living out the fantasies of the Spandau cult to fully appreciate their appeal, but to the uncommitted their approach seems lackey and facile. Singer Tony Hadley is too self-conscious to interpret Kemp's finer moments and the Swain and Jolley production is so smooth and so amused to radio clarity that the material lacks substance.

This is a common problem for pop groups, who are in danger of exceeding the bland

tedium of the rock music of the mid 1970s. *Parade* will undoubtedly yield a crop of hit singles and please the marketing men but as an album it's a non-starter, lacking even the saving grace of, say, Wham's shocking vulgarity.

In a completely different sphere, Tom Verlaine's *Cover* can be recommended. The New York guitarist who graduated from Television remains a master of subtle feedback statement which he accomplishes with a minimum of flash and an abundance of melodic grace.

Verlaine's forte is to juxtapose interplaying guitars (his and Jimmy Ripp's) with a set of lyrics that evoke southern American gentility, urban savour-faire and rural rock'n'roll imagery. The best songs are all on side two: "Let Go The Mansion", an enigmatic piece of black hearted menace, which unfolds into a mostly instrumental piece, "Rotation", where the guitars spin and dive with astonishing finesse. The final song, "Travelling", is structured like a Buddhist chant, full of strange percussive noises and hypnotic Oriental effect.

An even better bet for guitar lovers is *Spoonful*, a compilation from a blues artist from the 1960s, John Hammond. This selection gives fair proof that some white boys can play the blues pretty well.

The tracks are all standards and classics which make their performance that much more remarkable. Hammond's professed admiration of Howlin' Wolf, Jimmy Reed and John Lee Hooker predominates in the style but he could also do Chuck Berry justice.

He was helped by the sidemen he chose, an astonishing cast that included former Band members Robbie Robertson and Rick Danko as well as Duane Allman.

Spoonful is far more than a collector's dream, it includes a version of "I Wish You Would" that matches that produced by the Yardbirds and the standard of playing throughout is authentic and exciting.

Edsel Records are to be complimented for their current batch of re-issues from the Atlantic label. Others include the Clovers, Clyde McPhatter and Clarence Carter, but it is to this Leiber and Stoller production that I have returned most often. Even the image on the cover, Hammond in a snakeskin suit, is a delightful piece of rock'n'roll trivia.

Max Bell



Blues ambassador: B. B. King, on the South Bank on Monday

In concert

STATUS QUO
Today, Crystal Palace FC, Saltspring Park, London SE25 (240 0771)

London's farewell to the undisciplined champions of long-distance boogie, who plan retirement after their positively final appearance at Milton Keynes later in the month. This open-air bash also features Little Steven and the Disciples of Soul, now a guitar band playing heavy-metal protest music after the departure of their horn section, plus Dave Edmunds, Phil Lynott's Grand Slam, and Chas 'n' Dave.

BRACKNELL FOLK FESTIVAL
Today and tomorrow, South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell, Berkshire (0344 427272)
The reunion of the original Ashley Hutchings's Albion Band, music-theatre troupe, and the fiddle Dave Swarbrick's new band, called Whippersnapper, are among the highlights of the tenth annual Berkshire Folk picnic.

OLDIES BUT GOODIES
Tomorrow, Big Top, Streatham Common, London SW16 (853 8268)
Marty Wilde, Screaming Lord Sutch, Tommy Bruce, Heinz and Terry Dene are promised for this day of whistler nostalgia, part of the Capital Radio Music Festival Fings. Terry Dene, it will be remembered, anticipated Bob Dylan by 20 years in his espousal of born-again Christianity.

JAZZ ON A SUMMER'S DAY
Tomorrow, Stamford Hall, East Leake, Nottinghamshire (0602 419741)
The grounds of a lovely Georgian country house near Loughborough (just off the M1) provide the setting for a splendid day, topped by Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers and also including Slim Gaillard, Morrissey-Mullen and the Guest Stars.

POINTER SISTERS
Tomorrow and Monday, Hammermith, Odson, Queen Caroline Street, London W8 (748 4080)
"Automatic" and "Jump", both recent hit singles, are further evidence of the vocal trio's superb adaptability - and of the intelligence of their producer, Richard Perry.

CELIA CRUZ
Tomorrow, Hammermith Palace, 242 Shepherd's Bush Road, London W6 (748 2818)
The queen of Latin music makes her first British appearance since the Fania All-Stars concert at the Lyceum eight years ago. Tito Puente's band provides accompaniment to her demonstration of the art of salsa.

MOSE ALLISON
Monday, Camden Lock, London NW1 (267 4967)
Allison's Mississippi philosophizing comes in two-minute chunks: "Your Mind is on Vacation", "Farchman Farm" and "Seventh Son" are among the staples of his repertoire.

JVC CAPITAL RADIO JAZZ PARADE
Monday to Saturday, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (828 3193)
In lieu of the definite weekends at Knebworth, Capital has arranged six nights in a very different atmosphere. Most of the blues' best ambassadors, Toots Miles Davis, still pursuing the perfect fusion (two shows, 6.30pm and 8pm), West Dave Brubeck's group and the Brazilian singer Tania Maria, who is popular with the jazz-funk set. Thurs: the great Lionel Hampton's rousing big band. Fri: Dizzy Gillespie and friends, Freddie Hubbard and the Festival All-Stars. Miles, Dizzy and Freddie in one week, just after Don Cherry at Bracknell? That's practically the post-war history of jazz trumpet right there.

VIOLENT FEMMES
Tuesday, The Venue, 180 Victoria Street, London SW1 (828 8441)
Peculiar and slightly disturbing American trio who play bluegrass music with a Velvet Underground accent. The title of Country Death Song, from their debut album (*Hallowed Ground* on Slash Records), just about sums up their preoccupations.

CONCERTS

SMETANA QUARTET
Today, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall, 35 Wigmore Street, London W1 (935 2141, credit cards 741 8889)
The Smetana Quartet celebrate their sixteenth anniversary with, among other things, Dvořák's Quartet Op 26 "The American" and Beethoven's Quartet Op 130 with the *Grosse Fuge* as finale.

JORGE BOLET
Today, 8pm, Town Hall, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (0242 523898)

Not to be missed is Jorge Bolet's piano recital, with a feast of Liszt's *Concertos*, a *Race of the Studies d'Education*, *Transcendental*, half a dozen transcriptions of Schubert's *Lieder* and Schubert's *Wandererfantasie*.

BACH VESPERS
Tomorrow, 7pm, St Anne's, Greatstream Street, London EC2 (788 2877)
The Luccas Ensemble under Peter Lee-Cox perform Bach's Cantata No 177, *Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ*, and some Bach chorale preludes in the context of a Lutheran service, as originally intended. Vivaldi's Violin Concerto Op 3 No 3 (soloist, Lorna Osborn) is also included.

BARRY/MCGUIRE
Tomorrow, 8pm, Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London SW1 (890 3647)
The Musica Avant-Garde series continues with the world premiere of the Irish composer Gerald Barry's *Five Chorales* for two pianos and the British premiere of the American composer John McGuire's *Fräulein* for four pianos.

PAA VIDERNE
Tomorrow, 8pm, Town Hall, Cheltenham
Paa Viderna, a narration of Isen poems with music by Debus, is performed by the Halle Orchestra under Sir Charles Groves. This extreme rarity is framed by Holst's *Fugal Overture* and Elgar's *Symphony No 1*.

LISZT/BARBER
Monday, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
The unusual combination of Liszt and Samuel Barber is offered by Hugh Tinnery, who plays the former's superb *Waltz Klavier Variation*, *Impromptu Waltz No 3* and *Benediction*. These are followed by the American composer's *Excursions* and Piano Sonata Op 26.

NONOMIYA
Tuesday, 7.30pm, British Music Information Centre, 10 Stratford Place, London W1 (499 8587)
Alexander Goehr's *Nonomiyama* is interpreted by Robert Kaczmarek, who also plays Elisabeth Lutyens's *Plenum*, Mark Taylor's Piano Piece 3, Janet Owen Thomas's *Fantasy Sonata*. Admission free.

NEW BERKELEY
Tuesday, 8pm, Town Hall, Cheltenham
Michael Berkeley's new Horn Concerto receives its world premiere from Michael Thompson with the Polish Chamber Orchestra under Jarzy Mahysynski. Also on the programme are Elgar's *Serenade Op 20*, Tchaikovsky's *Serenade Op 48* and Britten's *Boring Bridge Variations Op 10*.

ROMAN PINES
Today, 7.45pm, Barbican Centre, 89, Strand, London EC2 (828 6796, credit cards 638 8881)
Respighi's brilliant, if empty *Pin di Roma* opens this concert by the London Symphony Orchestra under Neville Martin. It also includes Debussy's *Brigitte Fair*, Strauss's *Die Eule* and Cécile Ousset in Mendelssohn's brilliant and far from empty Piano Concerto No 1.

NEW HOLST
Wednesday, 7.30pm, Battle Exchange, St Paul's, London EC4 (828 2807)
The world premiere of Holst's *The Dream City* is given by the City of London Sinfonia, under Richard Hickox. They also perform Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto* for a *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and John Lill solos in Mozart's Piano Concerto K 468.

NEW FRICKER
Thursday, 11pm, Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (0242 523 889)
P. Rache Pictorial's *String Quartet No 3* has its world premiere from the Cheltenham Quartet. It is sandwiched between Haydn's Quartet Op 77 No 1 and Beethoven's Quartet Op 74 "The Harp".

OPEN ROADS
Thursday, 7.30pm, Purcell Room, Barbican Centre, South Bank, London SE1 (828 3191, credit cards 828 8800)
The Chamber Music Players of London play *Myra's Open Road* and *Open Road* together with Leopold Mozart's "Frog Divertimento", Eakins's *Capriccio for Solo Viola* and *Capriccio for Double Bass*, and what may be the first London performance of Brahms's *Hymn to the Veneration of Joachim*.

LUTYENS MEMORIAL
Thursday, 7.30pm, St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (222 1061)
Decade by the late Elisabeth Lutyens, including *Driving out the Death*, *Echo of Wind*, *Great Seas*, *Raguettes* and *Doubles*, are performed by artists who were closely associated with her.

STILL MOVEMENT
Friday, 7.30pm, Guildhall Old Library, Guildhall, London EC2 (236 2801)
The Polish Chamber Orchestra under Jerzy Maksymiuk reappear, this time giving the world premiere of the late Elisabeth Lutyens's *Still Movement*. They also play Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* (Jan Stanienda, violin) and Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No 3*.

CHRISTOPHER BLACK
Friday, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
Christopher Black plays Liszt's *Balade No 2*, Chopin's *Balade No 3*, Faure's *Nocturne No 6* and Granados's *Allegro de Concerto*.

BRODSKY QUARTET
Friday, 7.30pm, Paines's Hall, Little Trinity Lane, London EC4 (236 2801)
Brodsky's Quartet No 1 and Britten's Quartet No 3 are performed by the Brodsky Quartet.

Concerts: Max Harrison; Photography: Michael Young

GALLERIES



Vision of Venice: The Salute seen through the eyes of Sickert

Photography

FRANCES BENJAMIN JOHNSTON
1864-1952
Impressions Gallery, 17, Colindale Avenue, London NW9 (47241)
Until Aug 25, Tues-Sat 10am-5pm
Frances Benjamin Johnston was both journalist and photographer in the United States at a time when either career was an exceptional one for a woman. She took a series of photographs of life in the White House (the first in 1888) covering three administrations. She received over 8,000 portrait commissions between 1890-1910 and her work also extended to documentary work in schools and factories. In later years she photographed vernacular architecture in the southern states, where the old, white weatherboard buildings are reduced to solemn still-life studies.

AXEL POIGNANT
The Gallery, New South Wales Museum, Sydney NSW (01-535 6655) Until Aug 5, Mon-Fri 9am-6pm
Axel Poignant was born in England in 1906 but moved to Australia at the age of 20 where he lived for 40 years. This retrospective covers the period from 1922 to 1960 and contains many of his photographs of aborigines which became important special documents during the 1940s and 1950s.

Poignant's work displays an inquisitive nature and throughout there is an obvious rapport between photographer and subject. Also included are some remarkable wildlife pictures and a number of fine portraits. "A Gold Prospector in Arfura in 1946" is as fine a portrait as I have seen. Not to be missed.

EASINGTON: A DURHAM MINING VILLAGE
Cammermay, 121 Roman Road, London E2 (01 890 8255) July 18-Aug 14, Tues-Fri 1-5pm, Sat 11am-5pm
A topical exhibition of photographs by Bruce Rae of life in a village which is dependent on the local colliery. There are some uncomfortable messages about unemployment in an environment which seems so visually deprived. This exhibition is from the Side Gallery, Newcastle, which commissions work documenting life in the North East. Sadly the Side's doors remain firmly closed until September because of lack of funds.

MARK GERSON: WRITERS OBSERVED
National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (01 505 8233) Until Aug 18, Mon-Sat 10am-11pm
Gerson has concentrated on photographing British literary figures since he began taking pictures in 1947. Perhaps his best-known portrait is of Evelyn Waugh, full-length between stone couchant figures.

BRITISH PHOTOGRAPHY: 1839-1900
Victoria and Albert Museum, London (836 6377) Until Aug 19, Mon-Thurs 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm
The best British photography of the period leading to the famous shot of Brunel standing in front of the Great Eastern Railway bridge, and some less familiar, such as Edward Fox's study of an oak tree in winter and summer. All prints are original and the majority are from the V&A's own collection. Catalogue available, price £9.95.

THE WEEK

Variation on a Venetian theme

Sir Geoffrey Agnew is the first to admit that string-pulling comes in handy when you are arranging exhibitions like the one he has organised for the King's Lynn Festival. "This summer's very conceited," he says, "but I have rather special qualifications for getting painting, persuading people to lend, because they know me, and know that Agnew's handle things carefully." This year's show can be seen at the Ferry Centre, King's Lynn, for two weeks from next Friday.

As a director of Thomas Agnew, the art dealer, and a long-serving member of the festival committee, Sir Geoffrey, aged 76, has organised some 22 shows here since 1957. Highlights have been sketches by Rubens in 1960 and a Van Dyck exhibition in 1963.

This year, the theme on the musical side is to be Venice, and not wanting to create a watered-down version of the Royal Academy's recent major exhibition, Sir Geoffrey struck upon an original variation on the subject of Venice. "Venice has always attracted artists," he

says, "Turner's whole style, for example, was changed when he encountered Venetian light." He has therefore gathered a selection of works by artists who travelled to the city over the centuries simply to paint its beauties. "It has certainly never been done like this before, running from Canaletto onwards," he says.

There will be 30 paintings on show, the earliest by Canaletto. Some are strictly topographical, for example Ruskin's detailed watercolour of part of St Mark's. Others, like two capricios by Guardi, create a fantasy scene, with follies and ruins, out of elements of Venetian architecture. Some show an interest in colour, for example Monet's thickly-applied painting of the Santa Maria della Salute in dappled pink and blues, while Turner concentrated primarily on reproducing the light. Another distinctive element is the presence of human figures. In the two Whistler etchings on show they are seen as fleeting shapes.

Renoir is the only artist of significance whose work is not

on show, but, as Sir Geoffrey says, "there is no suitable Renoir in this country, and he didn't paint faithfully well there anyway." Notable lenders include Lord Coke of Holtbam Hall in Norfolk, and Lord Eccles, who have lent two Canalettos and two John Pipers respectively. Most of the paintings have never been exhibited in public before, and one reason why Sir Geoffrey managed to borrow them is that the exhibition is so short.

Two further exhibitions of Venetian subjects can be seen during the festival. One is of paintings of the city by artists living today, including Robert Morgan, Jeremy Barlow and Alison Musker. The other is of Venetian stringed instruments from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries.

Sarah Jane Checkland
"The Venetian Scene: Paintings and Drawings by artists from the eighteenth to twentieth centuries" is at the Ferryway Gallery, King's Lynn (0553 4725) from Fri. Until Aug 4, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm (late opening 6.30-7.30pm July 21, 23, 24, 27).

Openings

TURNER IN WALES: More than 100 oils and watercolours, and nine sketchbooks from Turner's five tours of Wales in the 1790s will be on show from next week close to where he worked on them. Mostyn Art Gallery, 12 Vaughan Street, Llandudno, Gwynedd, North Wales (0482 79201). Opens today, until Sept 8, Tues-Sat 11am-5pm.

CHERRY FOUNTAIN: Watercolours and oil paintings of English and foreign subjects including landscapes, self-portraits and still lifes. The show includes three of the Umbrian landscape, which, hung together, make a panorama, and "Gamekeeper's Family". Open Eye Gallery, 75 Cumberland Street, Edinburgh (031 557 1020). Opens Wed. until Aug 2, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-4pm.

LEAVES NEVER GROW ON TREES: MAX ERNST'S NATURAL HISTORY: Series of drawings by the Surrealist Max Ernst, using "trousses", a technique he invented. Fascinated first by the effects gained by rubbing black lead onto paper placed on a textured surface, he developed his rubbing into disturbing images of beasts and birds. Farnes Art Gallery, Queen Victoria Street, Hull (0482 222750). Opens today, until Aug 5, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30-4.30pm.

Selected

CHRISTO: OBJECTS, COLLAGES AND DRAWINGS 1968-1984
John Rowls Gallery, 11 Tottenham Mews, London W1 (837 5571). Until Sept 1, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm
Memories by the man who specialises in ephemera on a giant scale. Chance to look at all that is left of projects realized (the "Surrounded Islands" in Miami) and unrealized (the wrapping up of the Reichstag). Early work on show includes one of Christo's "Store Fronts" which has literally been under wraps in storage for some years.

THE HARD-WON IMAGE
The Tate Gallery (821 1313). Until Sept 9, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm
Figurative paintings since the 1980s which are the pleasing result of hard labour. Includes works by Moore, Knafl, Goldstream, Auerbach and Hodgkin, many of which have never been exhibited before.

MASTER DRAWINGS
The British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (636 1555). Until Aug 19, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2.30-6pm
An inspiring masterclass where one moment you can contemplate original drawings by Fra Angelico, the next, Goya, then Van Gogh and Henry Moore: 150 artists are represented. Includes a fascinating unfinished watercolour landscape by Dürer, some parts complete with delicate detail, the rest like an abstract, and a lovely drawing of a woman at her mirror by Sickert, with agitated texture in white chalk and black ink.



Touching scene: On the postman's launch in Mangrove Creek, taken by Axel Poignant in 1951

THE WEEK



Faces of the week (from left): Gina Campbell and Lady Arran, powerboating; Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson, golfing (see Sport); Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, selling (see Auctions); Sheila Steafel and Janet Baker, performing (see Radio)

Sport

ROUND BRITAIN POWERBOAT RACE: The first event of its kind since 1969, sponsored by Everest Double Glazing, is started from Southsea Castle, Portsmouth, at 10am today by Prince Michael of Kent. The 31 boats circumnavigate Britain clockwise, covering nearly 1,500 nautical miles in 10 to 12 days. Competitors include Ted Tolan, the current British champion and world speed record holder in class one powerboats; Gina Campbell, daughter of the late Donald Campbell; and Lady Arran, who will celebrate her sixty-sixth birthday en route. Southsea Castle, Portsmouth, today at 10am.

OLYMPIC WARM-UPS: Two athletics meetings, giving our Olympic hopefuls a last chance to hit form before they board the plane for Los Angeles. Tomorrow there is a three-nation challenge match at the Alexandra Stadium, Birmingham, between England and two countries who will not be at the Olympics, Poland and Hungary; television coverage in Sunday

Grandstand, BBC2, from 3.10pm. On Tulse British athletes face international competition in the Edinburgh Games at Meadowbank. BBC1, 8.05-8.30pm and 10.40-11pm.

NATWEST TROPHY: As cricket's 50-overs knockout competition moves into its second round on Wed, all eyes will be on Shropshire and their former Pakistani Test star, Mushtaq Mohammad, who put out Yorkshire in the first round and now face the might of Warwickshire's batting at Edgbaston. The matches start at 10.30am and there is coverage of one of them on BBC1 and BBC2.

THE OPEN: The 113th British open golf championship starts on Thurs at St Andrews with record prize money of more than £400,000 (of which £20,000 goes to the winner). Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus will be chasing records: Watson trying to emulate Harry Vardon's six victories and Nicklaus attempting to become the first man to win three opens at St Andrews. Television coverage begins on BBC1 at 10.55am, switching to BBC2 at 1pm.

Auctions

GRAND OLD CARS: A fine offering of collectors' cars and motor-cycles is to be auctioned by Christie's in association with Lord Montagu of Beaulieu on Mon. The sale is at Beaulieu and includes a 1934 Hispano-Suiza, one of the greatest automobiles, with one-off coachwork by Fernandez et Darrin in classical Art-deco style. There is a 1912 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost and a 1921 flat twin motorcycle by ABC Motors. Christie's South Kensington at Palace House, Beaulieu, Hampshire (0590 612061). Viewing 10.30am-5.30pm and Mon morning from 10.30am. Sale Mon at 2.30pm.

REDISCOVERED RODIN: A marble bust, 50cm high, of Marlon Brando, which has been sent for sale at Christie's has escaped the notice of all the books on Rodin since it has been in an English private collection since around 1900. It is a highly romantic portrait, with a rose in his bosom. This is the star of a little sale of sculpture, mostly nineteenth-

century bronzes. Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (039 8060). Viewing Mon 9am-4.30pm. Sale Tues at 11am.

EASTERN OPULENCE: A sultan reclining in Islamic splendour in a painting by the Austrian Orientalist Rudolf Ernst (1854-1935) is expected to attract bidding of about £20,000 at a sale of fine Continental pictures at Phillips. Another fine Oriental subject, Arab horsemen, by French painter Georges Washington is estimated at £15,000. Estimates for some pictures start at £100. Phillips, 7 Blenheim Street, London W1 (029 8602). Viewing today 9am-noon, Mon 9am-5pm, Tues 9-10am. Sale Tues at 11am.

JAPANESE ART IN BULK: As the end of the summer season approaches, Sotheby's seem to have packed all the Japanese art they have left into a massive two-day sale with 1,121 lots. It should be a good sale for buyers looking for bargains - there is too much material for most to be fiercely competitive. Most art forms are on offer including netsuke carvings, larger carved ivory groups, lacquer,

porcelain, enamels, prints and paintings. Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (493 8060). Viewing Mon and Tues 9am-4.30pm. Sale Wed and Thurs at 10.30am and 2.30pm.

Radio

STAEFEL WITH AN "S": The first of three late-night entertainments by the comedienne Sheila Steafel, featuring songs and monologues from her one-woman shows. The writers include Barry Cryer, Keith Waterhouse and Dick Vosburgh and there is musical backing from the Paul Maguire Quartet. Radio 4, today, 11.30pm-midnight.

RESPONSES: Tony Parker takes a look at the people who advertise in lonely hearts columns and finds that they are of all ages, classes, creeds and colours. Some are in search of a knight in shining armour but many are simply keen to extend their circle of contacts or meet others with similar interests. Radio 4, tomorrow, 10.15-11pm.

CAMPUS BLUES: New play by Andrew Davies (a part-time lecturer

at Warwick University) about the arrival on a British campus of a visiting American professor and his wife who expect dreaming spires and find concrete and glass instead. They also discover that extra-curricular pursuits tend to take precedence over learning. With Garrick Hagon and Shelly Thompson. Radio 4, Mon, 8.15-9.30pm.

MAN AND THE FUTURE: Three-part series, presented by William Woollard, starts with an examination of the science behind premonition and asks whether we can see into the future through dreams. The second programme looks at the scientific/technological roller-coaster, and whether it can be stopped, while the third considers the future of our species. Radio 4, Tues 10-10.30am.

THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE PROMS: The nineteenth season of Henry Wood Promenade Concerts opens with a concert of British music, comprising Vaughan Williams' "London" Symphony, Elgar's Sea Pictures and Walton's Schubert's Fantasia, played by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under its chief conductor, Sir John

Pritchard. The soloists are Janet Baker and Stephen Roberts. Radio 3, Fri, 7.30-9.10pm (in stereo with interval at 8.45pm).

Other events

THE PICCADILLY FESTIVITIES: A festival of the arts to mark the 300th anniversary of St James's Church, Piccadilly, built by Sir Christopher Wren. The theme is the apocalypse and how artists have interpreted it. Among the events are Roger Rees reciting the Book of Revelation; Mike Westbrook's settings of works by William Blake; a lecture by Kathleen Raine to inaugurate the Blake Society; and a personal appearance by the Russian director Andrei Tarkovsky, at a screening of his film *Nostalgia*. St James's Church, 187 Piccadilly, London W1 (734 0956). Until July 28.

FOOD AND DRINK: A celebration of 2,000 years of eating and drinking in London. Starts tomorrow with a demonstration of Roman cookery and also includes a tea-tasting talk on what went into the medieval stomach and laying a

table in the eighteenth century. The museum of London, London Wall, EC2 (500 3899). Until July 28. Tues-Sat 10am-6pm. Free.

AFRICAN MUSIC VILLAGE: Free daytime activities - background talks, informal concerts workshops and videos - and evening performances in the open air by more than 100 traditional and contemporary African musicians. Holland Park, London W8. Starts Mon, until Aug 4. For information contact the Commonwealth Institute on 603 4535.

ROYAL ASCOT SPECTACULAR: A day of family entertainment featuring top military and Royal Air Force displays, including the Battle of Britain memorial fly-past, the Red Devils free fall parachute team, Gazelle helicopters, Vulcan bombers and the continually drill team of the RAF Regiment Queen's Colour Squadron. In the presence of Prince Edward and in aid of the Prince Philip Trust Fund to improve social and recreational facilities. Silver Ring, Ascot racecourse, Berkshire, July 22, 11am-5pm. Adults £1, children 50p. Free parking. For information telephone 493 7071.

THEATRE

Friendly parody in tune with the past

Christopher Hewett is no stranger to parody. In Mel Brooks's film *The Producers*, he played the part of a transvestite giant hired as the "world's worst director" by backers desperate to see the musical *Springtime for Hitler* flop.

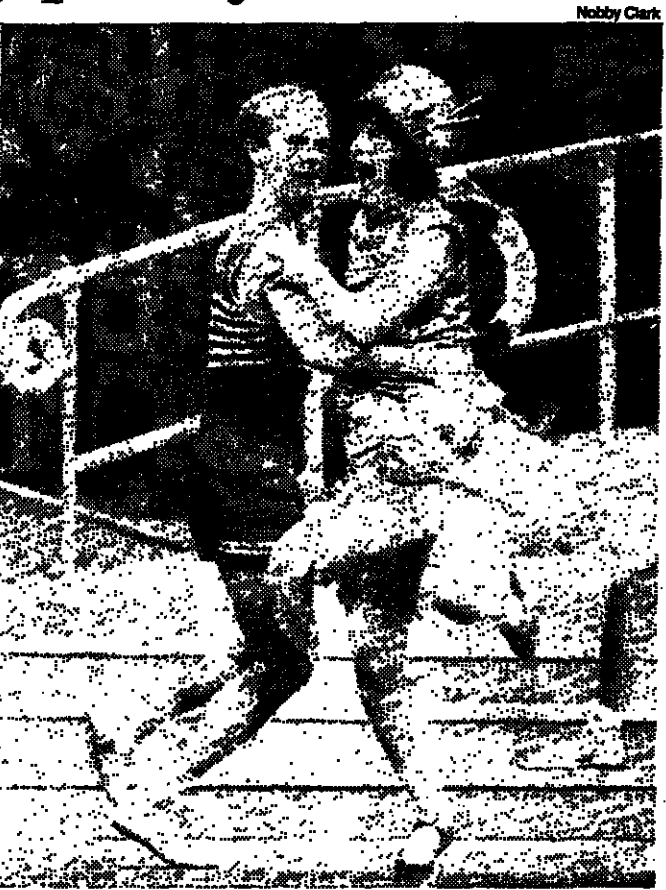
Now Hewett is the real-life director of another parody, Sandy Wilson's *The Boyfriend*, which opens at the Old Vic on Wednesday in a revival to celebrate the show's thirtieth anniversary.

But no one is envisaging disaster for *The Boyfriend*, not least because the producer is Cameron Mackintosh, who specializes in putting on musicals and already has three on the go in London: *Cats*, *Blondie* and *Little Shop of Horrors*.

He likes to produce a musical revival every two years, and was looking for a British musical when he remembered that in 1964 *The Boyfriend* would be 30 years old. "It is 17 years since it was presented at the Comedy Theatre and it seemed right to do it now. It is one of the best things ever done in this country, and it does not date in any way."

"*The Boyfriend* is a pastiche but also a work in its own right, and the score is as famous as the 1920s show it parodies. Although it is a send-up, it has the ability to move an audience with its simple love story, told with wit."

This new production, which has cost £200,000 to mount, is one of the biggest to be lavished on *The Boyfriend*, as Mackintosh has determined to give it



Just friends: Nigel Garton and Rosemary Ashe

not so much a new look as a new dimension. There is a full orchestra, in contrast to the piano and drums which were the accompaniment when Sandy Wilson wrote his pastiche for the Players Theatre, and there are - in Mackintosh's words - "correctly extravagant sets".

The cast includes Anna Quayle as Madame Dubonnet, Derek Waring, Peter Bayliss and Paddy O'Neill, but it is mostly made up of young performers, such as Linda-Mae

Brewer, Jane Wellman and Simon Green, who are new to the West End stage.

An additional emphasis in this production is on the dancing, which has come a long way from the occasional dash at the Charleston in earlier productions, and choreography is by Dan Siretta with musical direction by Charles Miller. Ray Cook and Chris Walker have written new orchestrations and the production has been supervised by Sandy Wilson.

After a six-week season at the Old Vic, *The Boyfriend* goes to the Palace Theatre, Manchester for four weeks, and then back to the West End "if everybody likes it", Mackintosh says.

He is proud of his part in raising the standard and popularity of musicals in this country which have been considered the poor relations of Broadway productions for years. He began to concentrate seriously on them with the success of *Side by Side by Sondheim* in 1975, going on to revive *Oliver*, and then, with Arts Council backing, *My Fair Lady* and *Oldfashioned*. "I like to take part of the credit with Andrew Lloyd-Webber, whose *Cats* and *Song and Dance* made people see that the British could do musicals rather well", he says.

Christopher Warman

The Boyfriend previews at the Old Vic (928 7616), today, at 4pm and 7.45pm, Mon and Tues at 7.30pm. Opens Wed at 7pm. Then Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.45pm, matinees Wed at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm.

Openings

CORPSE: Gerald Moon's new thriller stars Mico O'Shea and Keith Baxter, with Joyce Grant and Richard Hampton. Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1 (437 2663).

PREVIEW: Wed, Thurs, Fri at 8pm, July 21 at 5pm and 8.30pm, July 22-25 at 8pm; matinees previews Thurs, July 25, at 3pm. Opens July 26 at 7pm, then Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.30pm, matinees Thurs at 3pm.

THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE: Clifford Williams directs John Dighton's classic farce, not seen in London for 25 years, as the opening production of the Royal Shakespeare Company's summer season at the Barbican. A boys' public school is forced to share its accommodation with a girls' school evacuated from London in the Second World War. Barbican Theatre, London EC2 (028 8795/838 8891). Previews Thurs, Fri and July 21, 23, 24, at 7.30pm; opens July 25 at 7pm. In repertory.

RED STAR: World premiere of Charles Wood's play (the fifth to be presented by the RSC) has Richard Griffiths as Moscow actor whose ability to impersonate Stalin lands him in trouble. The Pit, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (028 8795/838 8891). Previews Thurs, Fri and July 21, 23, 24, at 7.30pm; opens July 25 at 7pm. In repertory.

THE SEA SAW RED: I.O.U. visual theatre company of four performers and three musicians combine painting, music, dance and poetry in "non-literary, non-political" show. Hugh Middleton Centre, Clerkenwell Green, Sans Walk, London EC1 (Almeida Theatre box office: 359 4404). Opens Tues at 8pm, until July 28, Tues-Sat at 8pm.

Selected

MEASURE FOR MEASURE: Barbican (028 8795/838 8891). Today at 2pm and 7.30pm. In repertory. Adrian Noble's distinguished and spectacular production sets Shakespeare's great problem comedy in the sinister world of an eighteenth-century absolute monarchy. With Daniel Massey, David Schofield, Juliet Stevenson and Richard O'Callaghan.

SAINT JOAN: Olivier (028 2252). Fri at 7.15pm. In repertory. In Ronald Eyre's spectacular production, Shaw's great play fills the vast auditorium with its without ever quite stilling the doubts it always raises. Strong cast, led by Frances de la Tour's gritty, rustic visionary.

STRANGE INTERLUDE: Duke of York's (036 5122). Final performance today at 6pm. Triumphant, very sensitive revival of Eugene O'Neill's 1927 masterpiece (it lasts for two hours) about a young woman (Gloria Jackson) who loses her fiancé and appraises a contrasted trio of lovers, played by Edward Petherbridge, Brian Cox and James Hazeldine. In search of satisfaction as a wife and mother.

VOLPONE: The Pit (028 8795/838 8891). Today at 2pm and 7.30pm. In repertory. Beautifully done, measured revival of Jonson's satire on greed and guile, with Richard Griffiths and Miles Anderson outstaring an outrageously funny Gemma Jones and a fine gallery of grotesques.

Out of Town

BROMLEY: Churchill Theatre, High Street (460 8677). The Fly and the Fox by Barry Took and Alick Morrison, from Volpone by Ben Jonson. Until Aug 4, Mon-Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 8pm; matinees Thurs and Aug 2 at 2.30pm, July 21 and Aug 4 at 4.30pm. Frankie Howard leads in this adaptation of the famous farce. Peter Cox directs. Dillya Smith, Audrey Woods, Madeline Smith.

CHICHESTER: On Kait by George and the Gaiety Theatre, 2.30pm. Today and Wed at 7.30pm. In repertory. Jane Carr, Michael Sberry, Geoffrey Hughes, Josephine Blake, Myra Sanders, Jeremy Hawk in a 1926 musical adapted by Tony Gels and Ned Sherrin. Ian Judge directs a tale of a rich brother and sister who use the family yacht for run-running.

LEICESTER: Haymarket, Belgrave Gate, (0533 339777). The Hired Man, by Melvyn Bragg and Howard Goodall. Previews Thurs at 7.30pm, Fri and July 21 at 8pm, July 23 at 7.30pm, opens July 24 at 7.30pm. Until Sept 1. Musical version of Bragg's novel about Cumbrian mining and

Escape in a whirl with Supergirl

"The one thing we didn't want was Superman in drag", noted Jeanne Szwarc, the director of *Supergirl*. "Supergirl represents power and strength. Supergirl is grace and style." She is also Superman's first cousin - born in the pages of D. C. Comics in 1959, 21 years after Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster created the comic-strip hero who flies through the air like Concorde with muscles, protecting America from countless catastrophes.

After three big-budget extravaganzas filled with such sights, Alexander and Ilya Salkind - owners of Superman's film rights for 25 years - decided it was time to howl to novelty and give Supergirl a whirl. For their star, they chose Helen Slater, a young, unknown graduate of New York's High School for the Performing Arts, famed as the setting of *Fame*.

To cope with the assignment, she lifted weights, gained over a stone, and soaked herself in the Superman mythology. "My father and Superman's father were brothers," Helen charmingly explained to one interviewer. "When the planet Krypton exploded, my father had already escaped to this other place, Argo City, where we lived in peace and harmony until our energy source was stolen."

So she flies to planet Earth on a rescue mission, taking up residence in Midvale City (outside Chicago, apparently) and assuming the disguise of an innocent schoolgirl, complete with olive-green blazer and satchel. The energy source lands in the clutches of some noisy supporting players, led by Faye Dunaway as an ambitious amateur fortune-teller; others featured in the adventures include Peter Cook, Brenda Vaccaro, and Peter O'Toole (as Zaltar, the wise old man of outer space).

Yet for all the change in sex, the ingredients of *Supergirl* seem little different from those of its male predecessor: regular aerial activity, a set-piece of urban chase, rampant comic villainy, and a grand finale that may not cap the story but certainly displays the hardware.

Whether *Supergirl* II will follow remains to be seen. But there is no doubt about the next Salkind extravaganza: this will be *Santa Claus*, aimed for release at Christmas, 1985.

Geoff Brown

Supergirl (PG) opens in London on Fri at the Warter (430 0797). Classic Haymarket (039 1527). ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (036 8861). ABC Fulham Road (370 2110). Studio Oxford Street (437 3300).

THE WIND (PG) Dominion Theatre (580 9593). July 19 only. Unmissable: a single screening of Victor Sjöström's astonishing silent drama about the terrors of nature and the human heart, with Lillian Gish; performed with the extraordinary score by Carl Davis which conducts the English Chamber Orchestra and first heard at last year's London Film Festival.

SUNDAY IN THE COUNTRY (PG) Chelsea Cinema (351 3742). An elderly academic painter's family come to visit one Sunday in the summer of 1912: cue for a meticulously beautiful film by

Bertrand Tavernier (winner of the best director prize at Cannes). Death and disappointment pervade the scenes, giving a sharp edge to the pastoral pretensions.

RUMBLE FISH (18) Gate Bloomsbury (337 1177/8402). Francis Coppola's latest film defies all categorisation: a black-and-white fantasy about youthful hopes and alienation; shot with determined poetic intent and meshed with a swelling rhythmic score by Stewart Copeland.

TO OUR LOVES (15) Camden Place (485 2443). Until Wed. Brilliant, uncomfortable film from Metrolia Plakat, actually exploring emotional deprivation and the

pinch grip of family life. Unknown actress Sandrine Bonnaire plays the teenage heroine with stark, painful, natural ease.

SWANN IN LOVE (18) (036 0891). Schlöndorff's film merely dips into Proust's novel sequence, but therein lies its success. Swann's infatuation with the beautiful but dubious Odette is conveyed with clarity, calm, exquisite photography, and there is an expert control performance from Jeremy Irons.

The information in this column was correct at the time of going to press. Last changes are often made and it is advisable to check, using the telephone numbers given.

Openings

BENVENUTA (15): Typically perplexing and beautiful film from the idiosyncratic Belgian director André Delvaux. From Thurs at the Camden Plaza (485 2443).

THE KING AND MR BIRD: A delightful cartoon allegory by Paul Grimaud and Jacques Provost on freedom and repression, with a host of visual delights. From Fri at the ICA Cinema, The Mall, London SW1 (930 3647).

EL NORTE (15): Gregory Nava's epic low-budget drama, shown at Cannes, follows the fortunes of a Guatemalan couple as they flee from the 1982 coup and head for America. From Fri at the Electric Screen (229 3694).

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THE TIMES LEISURE AND TRACK SUIT OFFER

THE growing legions of Keep Fit enthusiasts have brought about an increasing demand for new, comfortable sports and leisure wear.

WE have selected two high quality garments that have been designed for The Times readers by Mr President, the originators of the classic American leisure suits. Both styles have traditional "sweatshirt" grey body and trousers with deep rayon sleeves and trouser stripe in navy blue. The track suit has a navy blue hood with draw-strings, stretch-knit cuffs and waist-band and a front patch pocket that will double as a hand warmer. The leisure suit has deep stretch-knit crew neck, cuffs and waistband - both tops have the title of THE TIMES newspaper printed in soft navy blue flock on the left-hand breast.

THE trousers are the same for both outfits, grey body with navy blue stripe, drawstring waist and elasticated ankles. All garments are made of 50% cotton, 50% cretina acrylic and are fully machine washable. The inside surfaces have a soft fleecy lining that is warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

THE Leisure Suit with Crew Neck (including trousers) - £18.95

Track Suit With Hood including Trousers - £22.95

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

A long, hot week that spoiled the party

As so often in the financial world, there is little satisfaction in being right. The Building Societies Association finished off a truly depressing week by lifting its suggested mortgage rate by a full 24 points to 12½ per cent, as was predicted. That means the BSA is taking a hard line, expecting no swift fall in the banks' new 12 per cent base rates. And individual societies seem more likely to go above the suggested rate than to keep below it.

That, quite simply, is the effect of a weak pound on the average person's household budget.

On the Stock Exchange, the results have been equally drastic, pushing share prices as measured by the FT 30 share index down 48.6 points over five days to 770.7, a drop of 6 per cent. The new FT/SE 100 share index dropped below the 1,000 level at which it started its short life at the beginning of this year.

It had to happen, if not quite in the way — an old-fashioned summer sterling crisis — and to the extent that has actually taken place.

The Bank of England and the Treasury had quite rightly stretched the elastic between British and American interest rates as far as it would go — for there was no point in hurting our recovery and no point in missing out on the benefits of our own financial virtue any more than was absolutely necessary.

Where the authorities should be criticized is in not seeing that recent rises in US interest rates had to be reflected here. Moreover they were too pre-occupied by the contrast between our own financial virtues and the Americans' budgetary profligacy and too inflexibly wedded to the rule, established in the different conditions of 1980-81, that the exchange rate should be left to the market and not allowed to interfere with the conduct of domestic monetary policy.

Apparently, they did not notice that the financial economy was not, as they say, "in good shape". Maybe this year's public borrowing is unusually heavily slanted towards the beginning of the year, but that had not convinced the market, otherwise the Government Broker would have been able to sell enough gilt-edged stock on the market to keep the money supply figures well within their targets, rather than frothing over the top as most of last week's figures for June showed.

They also failed to register that the gradual but near continuous fall in sterling since the early spring had reached a stage where it threatened the Chancellor's still central aim of keeping inflation on its downward path.

The markets, however, noticed all these things. The markets also realized that the miners' strike has to be paid for, as the loss of industrial production in the past two months has made manifest.

The elastic has now twanged with a vengeance. How ironic that bank base rates and mortgage rates have ended up

perhaps a point higher than they would have done had the Chancellor taken a harder line. How ironic that, yesterday, the Government Broker was again able to sell gilt-edged stock apparently on his own terms. Had he cut his rates by a smaller amount a few weeks ago, there would have been no 2 per cent rise in June money supply to send the pound, however momentarily, below \$1.30.

But that is history. Yesterday, the pound was bouncing back above \$1.32, only partly thanks to a weak dollar. The stock market better skelter nearest level ground and the panic abated — leaving a heavy cost for industry and households.

The relief could be temporary. There is often a period of chaos after the US Federal Open Market Committee meets to decide its interest rate tactics as it will on Monday, and the coal strike, now a focus of attention of foreign exchange markets, drags on.

Mirror deal reflects on Reed

It will take some time for the dust to settle in the wake of the extraordinary one-man auction for Mirror Group Newspapers. While Mr Maxwell will doubtless be busying himself with his new purchase, the stock market will want to assess the implications of the affair for Reed International.

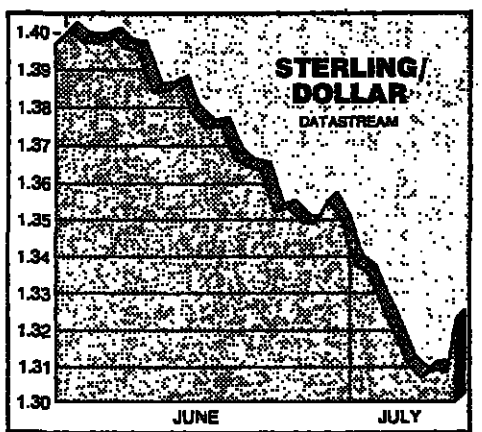
The predictable immediate reaction was to mark up Reed shares 16p to 434p on arrival of an extra £90m cash (net) in the company's balance sheet, in exchange for assets with a book value of £57.4m. In the year to April 1 those assets produced a trading profit of only £5.7m, a sum which Reed could if it so wished double simply by leaving the £90m on the money market. In practice, the cash will give Reed considerably more financial elbow-room to pursue its recent policy of acquisitions.

However, it was significant that the Reed share price proved unable to hold on to its early gain. Even by lunchtime yesterday it had relapsed to 414p for a net loss of 4p one stage. This may reflect a stern judgment on the board's handling of the Mirror.

It is difficult not to sympathize with the claim of Sir Alex Jarratt, Reed's chairman, that at each point in a dramatic and rapidly unfolding sequence he and his board took the best option available to them in the service of the company's shareholders.

That unfortunately still leaves him open to the charge, with the aid of hindsight, that he did not take full account of the possibilities when the announcement was made last October that Mirror Group was to be floated on the stock market. Several commentators pointed out the likelihood that Mr Maxwell would try to pre-empt the flotation with an outright bid. That was dismissed by senior Reed executives at the time with the promise that the group's ownership would be widely spread. It was a promise which never rang true with the equally strong commitment to selling the Mirror Group for the highest price.

What flows from this? Sir Alex has understandably claimed that he had no alternative but to accede to Mr Maxwell's burning ambition, in the face of what he describes as an "ever-escalating" series of bids. But the about-turn can be expected to have a disturbing effect on morale within Reed, and perhaps an inhibiting effect on negotiations for future acquisitions. That will worry the investment community for some time.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Chloride dissident rebuffed

Chloride's directors have opposed an attempt by Dr. Gillibrand, chairman of the shareholders' action group, to win a seat on the board at this month's annual meeting.

In a letter to shareholders, they say that they do not feel "that the appointment of Dr. Gillibrand as a director would contribute to the effective working of the board". Dr. Gillibrand is a former head of group research at Chloride but his employment was terminated in 1972. The letter says the directors do not feel that "a former executive whose employment with the company was terminated would be an appropriate person to be appointed a director".

● **LENNONS GROUP**, the Merseyside supermarket chain, has increased pret profits for the year ending March 31 to £1.17m, up from £542,000. Turnover dipped from £94.6m to £91.3m. A final dividend of 0.75p makes 1.05p for the year against 0.85p last time.

● **A LONG-TERM** rescue plan for Continental Illinois Bank should be unveiled within two weeks, according to Congressional sources, but government sources say bank regulators are still reviewing several options.

● **NICHOLSON & SONS**: Half-year to March 31 turnover £10.44m (£9.85m). Pretax profit £927,000 (£1.16m). Interim payment 1.17p (1.08p). The new brochure has been commissioned.

Minet offer accepted by 800 names

Minet Holdings has received almost 800 acceptances — both firm and indicated — for its £38.17m compensation offer to 1,500 Lloyd's underwriting members of former PCW syndicates.

Five names have withdrawn their acceptance following the Inland Revenue's decision to re-open names' tax assessments.

between 1970 and 1980. The Revenue believes profits were understated for these years and is claiming £15.8m back tax and interest, as well as threatening possible penalties.

However, a letter to all names from the Minet subsidiary, Richard Beckett Underwriting Agencies (formerly PCW), says the Revenue would probably fail in its claims. The normal statutory period for re-opening tax years of Lloyd's names is eight years. Beckett also says that past profits of syndicates were probably overstated.

Because of this, Beckett is not recommending that names accept the Revenue's offer of a global settlement covering all the 1,500 names.

From Bruno Lopez, Mexico City

would "open a whole new era on (debt) restructuring". A successful trend-setting by Mexico, said the banker, would benefit the countries that will follow at the negotiations table: Brazil, with a \$90 billion debt and Chile, the fifth most indebted nation in Latin America, owing \$18 billion. Citibank's vice-president and co-chairman of the steering committee Mr William R. Rhodes, has said bankers will give Mexico the best deal the country has received so far on the new negotiations, which will probably cover the country's public sector principal falling due between 1985 and 1990. Which amounts to about \$58 billion.

Terms that bankers interviewed considered acceptable included a repayment period of 10 to 15 years, and a balanced distribution on principal payments that could be of \$3 billion instead of the huge payments now programmed, plus generous spreads of 1 per cent or 1.5 per cent over the London Interbank offered rate.

Banks likely to approve \$58bn deal

Mexico set for record 'reward'

From Bruno Lopez, Mexico City

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One of the fairly novel ideas which will probably be discussed is the establishment of a new interest rate independent of the volatile U.S. prime rate.

Beyond the restructuring talks now starting, some economists and critics say Mexico will default regardless of bankers' concessions. The country's economy has negative growth, the internal market has shrunk 40 per cent in three years and unemployment and under-employment combined is around 40 per cent.

While Mexico had forecast a \$4.8 billion balance-of-payment trade surplus for 1984, the four points the prime rate gained in the year cut expectations to a \$3.8 billion surplus, the same amount as Mexico's commercial bank borrow in for the year. Senior General Sabagun, head of an economic study centre at Mexico's National University, explained that the recessive government programme of tight salary controls and light price controls had halved real wages.

Growth slows as pit strike hits output for fifth month

By Peter Wilson-Smith Banking Correspondent

Britain's industrial output fell for the fifth month in a row in May, almost entirely due to the miners' strike. And the underlying trend appears to be showing signs of flattening out after the steady upward movements during the second half of last year.

Output in May was down 1.5 per cent, according to the provisional figures from the Central Statistical Office. This followed a fall in April of 1.1 per cent revised from 0.2 per cent.

The three-monthly figures, which tend to give a more accurate picture of the trend, shows the output in the three months to May was 2.5 per cent lower than in the three months before. By which time the bulk of the drop on the miners' dispute. Excluding the coal and coal industry, output was only 0.5 per cent lower in the latest three months and still 4 per cent above the level in the same year.

The coal miners' strike has raised City doubts about whether the Government will attain its forecast 3 per cent growth in the economy this year, though the Chancellor, Mr Lawson, has said recently that the underlying rate of growth is running at about 3 per cent.

Forecasters are generally more sceptical about the Government's inflation forecast of 4.5 per cent by the end of this year, especially after the sharp

Officials say the impact of the coal strike has been almost entirely confined to the industry itself.

The figures for manufacturing output alone show a change during the latest three-month period to May. However, the level of output was still 3.5 per cent up on the same three months in 1983.

Since the trough of the recession in the first quarter of 1981, manufacturing output of the production industries is up 6.5 per cent.

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INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT (Seasonally adjusted 1980=100)

	Production Industries	Manufacturing
1979	107.0	108.3
1980	100.0	100.0
1981	98.4	93.7
1982	98.1	93.7
1983	101.2	95.9
1983 Q1	99.9	94.8
Q2	99.2	94.8
Q3	101.9	96.6
Q4	103.4	97.7
1984 Q1	103.1	97.7
April	101.3	98.3
May	100.0	97.3
3-month change %	2.5	2.3

rise in the mortgage rate from 10.25 to 12.5 per cent.

Inflation in June remained at an annual rate of 5.1 per cent, according to the latest figures from the Department of Employment, and there are hopes that the annual rate could fall back in July. But the rise in mortgage is expected to add about 0.8 per cent to the retail

prices index and unless the recent rise in interest rates is rapidly reversed, analysts believe this could make the Government's forecast unattainable.

Because of the mortgage rise, the stockbroker Grosvenor has raised its inflation forecast for the year-end to 5.75 per cent and is taking a gloomy view.

Phillips & Drew, which until this week was forecasting year-end inflation of 5.1 per cent and not ruling out the possibility that the Government could meet its target, now believes 5.5 to 5.75 per cent is more likely.

However, the Government is taking some comfort from recent evidence that inflationary pressures in the economy are very low and takes the view that the underlying trend in inflation is still downwards.

The latest international comparisons show that Britain's inflation rate is below the average for industrial countries although higher than in West Germany and the US.

Surveyors set to charge fees by results

By Vivian Goldsmith

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors is to allow its members to charge by results and is considering allowing them to work with limited liability through private or public companies.

These radical changes are designed to allow the surveyor's regulating body to keep a hold on its members who find that commercial pressures have come into conflict with the standards set by the institute.

At the moment, chartered surveyors are forced to work in partnerships and therefore cannot raise money by going public. There are two public limited companies, Bristow Eves and Connells. Chartered surveyors who were partners were forced to resign their RICS membership on the flotation.

Now the institute is worried that it may lose some of its more talented and go-ahead members as other estate agencies join the Stock Exchange. This will also pave the way for pure surveyor partnerships to go public.

This change is only at the "green paper" stage and will come before the institute's general council next year for further discussion.

A London surveyor said: "There will not be a stampede of companies going public. We are essentially a personal service profession. What is important is that surveyors will be able to work with limited liability and raise money more easily."

Surveyors are to be allowed to charge "success-related" fees except where dealings relate to legal proceedings. These no-win, no-fee arrangements will mainly affect rates appeals where a company may agree to pay the surveyor a percentage of the reduction in rateable value that he is able to negotiate with a valuation officer. But should the case go to court the fees would have to be changed to a flat time-related basis.

The institute is clearly not enthusiastic about this sort of change, but Mr Michael Clark, vice-president, said: "We are in favour of the client being able to have a free choice."

Group Lotus turns to £275,000 profit

By Jonathan Clare

The troubled affairs of Group Lotus, the Norfolk maker of fast cars, has at last taken a turn for the better with a return to profits, at least at the pretax level.

Lotus has had more than its fair share of bad luck since its chequered trading record, some rapid changes in its big shareholders and its unfortunate involvement in the ill-fated De Lorean sports car venture.

Yesterday its latest chairman, the colourful and normally irrepressible Mr David Wickens of British Car Auctions, the country's biggest second hand car dealer, was maintaining an unusually low profile and was not to be found.

Figures out yesterday show that Lotus made a profit of £275,000 against last time's loss of £2.1m.

However, consultancy costs of last year's refinancing deal and the successful appeal against £30m worth of Inland Revenue tax assessments give rise to a £380,000 extraordinary debit.

This leaves shareholders with an attributable loss of £105,000 against £2.1m.

The company's statement says that the reintroduction of the marque in the United States

swapped for a new class of preference stock in Crocker.

For each share of common stock the minority shareholders in Crocker would receive perpetual adjustable rate preferred Crocker stock with a face value of \$25. But Midland's advisers point out that this new stock would probably trade in the market at a discount.

Midland Bank has bid for full control of Crocker National, the Californian bank which has incurred heavy losses since Midland took a 57 per cent stake in it three years ago.

In a complicated paper offer worth about \$207m (£157m) Midland has proposed that the common stock held by Crocker's minority shareholders be



Wickens back in the black

has pushed exports up to 31 per cent of total sales of £12.8m against £2.4m.

It also says the £140,000 cost of defending the tax assessments is reflected in the results but "the adverse effect" the De Lorean matter has had on the company's performance over the past three years was significantly greater than that.

The results for the year to end 1983, give no indication of the company's performance in the first six months of 1984.

The 1982 accounts were qualified by the auditors subject to shareholders' approving the refinancing proposals.

Crocker offer by Midland

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Yours sincerely, James Williams

James Williams Publisher NSC

WHAT TO BUY AND WHEN TO SELL

One reason for SMC's success has been that we not only tell you what to buy — but also when to sell. In fact the average holding period is only fifteen weeks which means you can maximize profits and minimize losses.

Our subscribers can boast some of the healthiest portfolios anywhere with fast and sure profits, and quick capital gains. *Stockmarket Confidential*, posted to subscribers first class every Wednesday evening, also contains constructive buying and selling recommendations, sound investment analysis and most important of all, one or more Hot Tips for the week.

Each week the SMC Editor chairs a private meeting of the SMC Board of Advisors. Together, these financial specialists pool information, valuation sources, and discuss the latest City Whispers. At the end of the meeting they have chosen the hottest tips and decided whether or not to sell any shares previously recommended.

We guarantee that none of these tips will be leaked to the *Financial Times*, or published, except in *SMC*. Which means you can act with total confidence each Thursday morning.

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Pound up 1½ cents

The two-point rise in minimum lending rate and hopes that the dock strike might soon be settled allowed the pound to end the week on a firmer note.

By the end of trading in London yesterday, sterling had gained 1.55 cents to \$1.3225, while the effective rate, which measures performance against the currencies of Britain's main trading partners, had risen from 77.7 to 78.2.

Part of the recovery was caused by the dollar declining after the latest US money supply figures fell by less than had been expected and retail prices rose faster than anticipated. Higher industrial output in the US did not encourage the market.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index 985.8 up 4.4 (High: 998.8; low: 987.8)
FT Index 770.7 down 0.4
FT 100 Index 770.7 down 0.4
FT All Share 466.49 up 1.68
Bargains: N/A
Debt: USM Leaders Index 84.21 down 0.45
New York Dow Jones Industrial Average (last) 1107.86 up 3.09
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index 10,153.23 down 116.93
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index 746.12 down 17.76
Amsterdam 167.8 up 0.8
Sydney: AO Index 689.0 up 3.2
Frankfurt Commerzbank Index 947.1 up 5.2
Bourses: General Index 141.65 up 0.50
Paris: CAC Index 166.9 up 0.7
Zurich: SBA General 294.10 down 0.8

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.3225 up 1.55 cents
Index 782.2 up 0.5
DM 3.7450 up 0.0175
Sfr 1.4800 up 0.0000
Yen 161.75 up 2.75
Dollar Index 138.1 up 0.7
DM 2.8365 down 0.0120
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.3225
Dollar DM 2.8360
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 20.56652
SFR 10.779348

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 12
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 12-11½
3 month interbank 11½-11¼
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 11½-11¼
3 month DM 5¼-5½
3 month FR 12¼-11¾
US rates:
Bank prime rate 13.00
Fed funds 10½
Tre

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Encouraging end to account despite US setback for ICI

By Derek Pain and Michael Clark

After another uncertain day shares managed to close on a firm note yesterday as the stock market pinned its faith on a dock strike settlement.

At one stage the FT 30 Share Index was down 7.3 points to 763.8 points, its lowest since just before Christmas. Then a little new-time buying and dock strike hopes pushed the index to 770.7 points, a fall of 0.4 point and just above its year's low.

But for a sudden wave of US selling of Imperial Chemical Industries, the index would have ended this traumatic account with a plus.

During the afternoon ICI climbed to 542p - up 6p. Then came the transatlantic sales and the price fell to 534p, down 2p on the day.

The much more broadly based FT-SE 100 Index continued to languish below 1,000 points, but it did finish up 4.4 points at 995.8.

Government stocks turned in a firm performance on the back of the pound's much better showing against the dollar. There were gains throughout the list with some prices up by almost £1.

The sell-off of the recent Treasury 11½ per cent 2001/4 taplet also helped to stimulate demand.

Among leaders, Thorn EMI continued to reflect unease at the £95m acquisition of 76 per cent of the microchip group. The shares, down 38p on Thursday, dipped a further 16p to 464p.

The dock strike settlement hopes spurred Associated British Ports 18p to 203p. London and Overseas Freighters opened at 5½p from its 8p suspension

price following the rights issue and continuing losses.

Shares of Mr Alan Sugar's Amstrad Consumer Electronics lost an early lead to close 2p down on the day at 68p after reports that 1.85 million shares had been placed in the market at around the 68p level. Gossips suggest the shares might have been part of the 10.9 million held by Mr Sugar, but he said: "I don't know anything about it."

A sign of the times perhaps? Stockbroker Williams de Broe is sponsoring a couple of races at Lingfield. Today, but number three on the card in the 2.45pm William de Broe Handicap Stakes has been listed as a non-runner. The name of the horse is Dual Capacity.

Meanwhile, Reed International afforded itself the luxury of a 2p rise to 420p following the agreed £113m bid by millionaire publisher Mr Robert Maxwell for Mirror Group Newspapers. The deal means Reed will probably have raised more cash from MGN than it would have done with the planned flotation of the shares on the stock market.

Reed had hoped that a listing for the shares would value MGN at around £80m, but in a falling market that figure may have proved over-optimistic.

Other newspaper shares failed to glean any inspiration from the bid, with Fleet Holdings, publisher of the Daily and Sunday Express, recovering from an early fall to close unchanged at 169p. Mr Max-

well already owns a 10 per cent stake in Fleet.

Newspapers, publisher of the Daily Mail, lost 16p to 425p following a warning from Lord Rothmans on second half prospects. The Daily Mail Trust ordinary and 'A' shares both lost 5p to 720p. Riley Leisure remained friendless, losing 8p to a new low of 45p. Earlier this week one large seller dumped over 200,000 shares on the market, doing little to restore the group's confidence after a shaky period.

Country Gentlemen's Association slipped 5p to 620p. The shares could go lower on Monday. Lord Tanlaw's settlement has acquired 24 per cent of the company. It appears the settlement's trustees are friendly to the board which, in recent months, has had to contend with the appearance of two major shareholders, Atlanta Investment Trust and Edinburgh Financial.

Atlanta launched a tender offer in June at 500p and collected 11.5 per cent. Edinburgh had around 9.5 per cent. Both have sold with Laurie, Milbank, the stockbroker, putting together the deal with Lord Tanlaw's settlement. Lord Tanlaw is a director of the Inchcape international trading group.

Fidelity, the hi-fi to TV group, jumped 7p to 103p as Mr Swarj Paul's Caparo Industries continued to acquire shares. It has purchased another 550,000, lifting its shareholding to 23.3 per cent and intensifying speculation that a bid for control is planned.

Amos Hinton was good for

another 10p rise to 318p, still awaiting further developments on the talks with a mystery bidder.

Callens Stores recovered from an early setback to close all square at 210p, after 215p amid renewed whispers of a bid. There are suggestions it could be the Dee Corp 2p dealer at 460p. The expected 2½ per cent rise in mortgage rates to 12½ per cent

Toys and Co, a maker of civil and military regalia, is the latest quoted company to attract Gomba Holdings, the sprawling group created by Mr Abdul Sharif. Gomba has acquired just under 15 per cent and hopes of its dramatically increased involvement pushed the Toys price 22p higher to 123p yesterday.

still created a few troubles for the high street retailers, where prices continued to fluctuate wildly. A rise in mortgage repayments usually results in less spending in the shops.

In stores Debenhams closed 2p up at 158p, having been as low as 154p earlier. House of Fraser also closed 4p up on the day at 230p. But among the multiples Boots lost 1p to 147p, after 143p, along with British Home Stores 1p to 186p, after 191p and 183p, Burton 5p to 214p, after 212p. Great Universal Ordinary 2p to 491p, and Habitat Mothercare 4p to 258p.

However, there were a few bright spots, with Marks & Spencer rising 2p to 207p, after 202p, and Woolworths 8p to 421p. Even Currys put in a late run adding 5p to 228p.

Associated Telecom to change course

Mr Ron Shuck is selling out of Associated Telecommunications, the former Associated Tooling, which he relaunched onto the Stock Exchange less than a year ago.

Conditional terms have been agreed for a director and 5 per cent share holder, Mr Hendrik Van Shuck, to buy just over 1.2 million shares from fellow directors Mr Shuck and Mr Trevor Homer at 45p a share.

As part of the deal, Mr Shuck will acquire from the company the business systems division. On completion, both he and Mr Homer will resign as directors.

Mr Van Eck wants to turn the company into a financial services group. The share purchase will give him 39.5 per cent of the company and discussions are currently taking place with the Takeover Panel on the possibility of waiving the obligation for him to bid for the rest.

A further announcement is expected within a fortnight and the group says it hopes the preliminary report for the year to the end of last January will be announced as soon as possible.

In brief

● **FALCON INDUSTRIES:** Falcon Industries, whose change of name from Jones & Cane became effective on July 2, has purchased Wysepan Limited from Bovis, a subsidiary of Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation, for about £1.4m. Wysepan's main activities are the construction and sale of prefabricated buildings for industrial and commercial use. The price Falcon is paying is equal to 90 per cent of the book value of the assets of Wysepan at July 13, 1984, the date of completion, subject to a maximum consideration of £1.5m.

● **NORRAIN ELECTRONICS:** (USM quotation) Year to April 30, Turnover \$9.0m (£3.41m). Pretax profit \$664,000 (£211,000). The board reports that the current year has started encouragingly, with group performance in excess of budget for the first two months.

● **WITWATERSRAND NIGEL:** Quarter to June 30, compared with quarter to March 31, 1984. Revenue \$4.09m (£2.11m), profit \$4.34m. Pretax loss \$122,000 (profit \$522,000). By September, the board reports, with the plant and production running smoothly, it is expected that the current year order of not less than \$3,000,000 a month. The board has changed the year-end from end-June to end-December. The current period will be for 18 months and will reflect 12 months' operation under the new management.

● **ANGLO-AMERICAN SECURITIES CORP:** Last dividend maintained at 1.5p net a share, payable on Aug 24.

Market gets the message of the promised land

The authorities' "mission to convince" counter-offensive against the brawling students of the gilt market got off to a smooth start yesterday. The Government Broker tied up around £300m in quick funding by selling out the new taplet, Treasury 11½ per cent 2001-04. On and then off at 102½, he disposed of the rump at 102½, and the strong rumour in the market suggested that he sold the stock on his own terms. Some jobbers were said to be incensed that their original applications for stock were scaled down.

Three-month interbank shaded back from a precautionary 12½ per cent to 11½ per cent, a level far more consistent with a 12 per cent base rate looking to drop to 11½ per cent shortly. Sterling pushed ahead to above \$1.32 and firmed up on the trade-weighted index to 78 pence.

Doubleless encouraged the building societies to limit the increase in the mortgage rate to 12½ per cent, as opposed to the more alarmist 13 per cent-plus which a jittery market had earlier been expecting.

Economic statistics from both sides of the Atlantic yesterday were also mildly encouraging. June retail prices rose by 0.3 per cent to give a year-on-year rise of 5.1 per cent unchanged on May, while May industrial production dropped by 1.3 per cent. Gilt yields bounced off 12 per cent.

But when this curve is tagged on to the rest of the gilt market, it twists into an ugly "S" bend, which is inherently unstable.

Fairly the market still needs time to settle down before the really sizeable buying appears. This week's retrenchment could still be marred by overzealous haste.

● **LENNONS GROUP:** A disappointing year for Lennons Group has done nothing to quell the rumours of a possible takeover bid for the Merseyside-based stores chain. If anything, the group's failure to produce any signs of real growth will have enhanced the prospects of a bid approach.

The group's problem is that it has not made progress as rapidly as it needs to inject some life into its lacklustre profit and loss account. Although the problem areas are being tackled, the results have not yet filtered through and pretax profits could only rise to £1.7m.

The net margin of 1.3 per cent is far too low and the group has been unable to make the gains in volume which it needs to take recovery further forward. The stand-alone off licences are still a headache and Lennons must soon consider what it should do about them. A sale to raise funds to finance bigger supermarkets must be a possibility.

However, those shareholders looking for an immediate salvation through a takeover approach will no doubt be looking anxiously at Amos Hinton & Sons which admitted earlier this week that it had received a bid approach. The two chains are very similar and

there might not be the scope for both of them to be bought.

Lennons has had talks with the Dee Corporation in the past and there is still a possibility that it might make a bid. The price would probably be close to the net asset value of around 50p a share against yesterday's price of 39p, down 1p. Even without a bid shareholders should not be too concerned. Lennons will eventually show some growth as the benefits of change are felt but it will take a lot longer before this is reflected in the share price.

Phoenix Assurance

It was difficult for any sector to look exciting in a week dominated by red pencils on the Stock Exchange, but come a weekend "breather" and a return to near normality, there could be some interesting manoeuvring among the composite insurers.

Wednesday's agreed takeover of Phoenix Assurance by Sun Alliance would level the latter into third place in a league of increasingly like-sized groups. Leaving out the Prudential, that will reduce the significant quoted composites (which mix life and general business) to five even if Sun Alliance does not succeed, since Phoenix is unlikely to remain independent.

Phoenix at £400m is by far the smallest of the remaining quoted composites. After that any bidder must double his stakes, and more, to look at Guardian Royal Exchange.

For that reason alone, Paul Kelly of stockbrokers L Messel thinks that there is at least a 50 per cent chance that Sun Alliance will face competition. In any case, the Sun Alliance bid is fair rather than generous.

Meanwhile, the investment department of Sun Alliance, advisers Rothschilds has sold 250,000 Phoenix shares for clients from the other side of one of those City Chinese walls, helping with other profit-takers to push Phoenix down to 62½p against the 65p offered. Sun Alliance can only buy a further 5.9 per cent and that not till Thursday. Rivals, if they are brooding on their tactics, may be waiting for a possible Monopolies and Mergers Commission reference, but that does not seem likely.

Sharp rise in demand for gold ware

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The first big upturn for years in demand for gold and, to a lesser extent, silver is being reported by Britain's assay offices, which hallmark gold, silver and platinum were ready for retailing.

The last boom year for gold ware, mainly accounted for by jewellery, but also including such holloware as bowls and tea services, was in 1977 and the last three years have seen consistently depressed sales levels.

Last year saw gold ware at

assay fall nearly 2 per cent by weight, but the first half of this year has seen a sharp improvement. The first quarter, usually the quietest for the trade, saw an 18 per cent rise, followed by 13.6 per cent in the second quarter.

By numbers, gold ware rose 4.4 per cent in the second quarter and silver ware by 3.4 per cent.

Mr Con Leman, executive director of the National Associ-

ation of Goldsmiths, said: "Trade could now continue at the present level. The only question marks are whether the current industrial disputes could affect confidence and whether particularly increased mortgage payments will squeeze spending on items like jewellery."

Retail sales of jewellery are up by at least 10 per cent, reflecting a growth in real terms of some 5 to 7 per cent, according to Mr Leman. One recent market survey suggested that the market in Britain would expand

by around 5 per cent this year. Imports, particularly from Italy which under cuts Britain on price, are still a big threat to British manufacturers but their market penetration reached 34 per cent in gold ware.

In the first quarter of this year the penetration level dropped back to 30 per cent, although in the second quarter it jumped again to 36 per cent. Taking the first half as a whole it could mean imports are stabilizing at about a third of the market.

The British Businessman in perspective

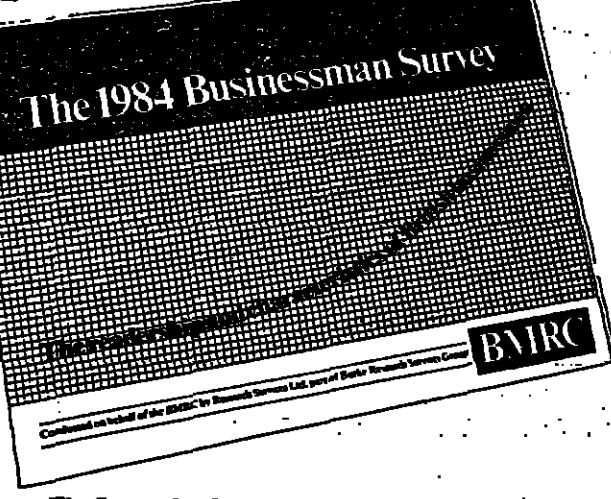
The authoritative update on the behaviour of British businessmen and women, the 1984 BMRC survey is now available.

Over 16 per cent of British executives travelled abroad on business more than five times in the past year. Most of them had at least one credit card in their wallet, but only seven per cent had more than one, and a mere one per cent had more than two. Most of them, 89 per cent, were married, 32 per cent had children under 15 years of age, 57 per cent had two or more cars, and the majority of 65 per cent worked for a company with no more than 300 employees.

All of which is typical of the enormous wealth of data which can be analysed from the 1984 Businessman Survey, the basic report of which is now available.

This is the seventh in a series of surveys commenced in 1973. Based on a universe of approximately 800,000 businessmen, it is designed to measure their readership of daily and Sunday newspapers and of over 60 magazines. It also provides a unique, accurate and highly detailed insight into the working and personal lifestyles of the contemporary British businessman, including:

- income
- job status
- family background
- personal financial investments
- air travel
- credit card ownership
- car ownership
- press readership
- TV watching habits



The Survey has been conducted by Research Services Ltd, part of Burke Research Services Group. It was commissioned by the BMRC (Business Media Research Committee) representing the Daily Telegraph, The Economist, Financial Times and Times Newspapers, together with other leading media and non media sponsors, including British Airways.

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To: BMRC Secretariat, c/o Research Services Ltd, Station House, Harrow Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6DE
Telephone: 01-903 1399 Telex: 923755

Please send me copy/copies of the 1984 Businessman Survey at £60 for the first copy, £30 for further copies including postage and packaging.

NAME _____ COMPANY _____ CHEQUE ENCLOSED ☐
ADDRESS _____ PLEASE INVOICE ME ☐
PLEASE TICK ☐

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

July 13 (day forward)	July 13 (3 months)	1 month
New York 2.0000	2.0000	0.04-0.05 prem
London 1.0000	1.0000	0.00-0.01 disc
Amsterdam 1.6667	1.6667	0.00-0.01 prem
Frankfurt 1.9360	1.9360	0.00-0.01 prem
Paris 6.5596	6.5596	0.00-0.01 prem
Brussels 36.3636	36.3636	0.00-0.01 prem
Copenhagen 13.0000	13.0000	0.00-0.01 prem
Frankfurt 2.7000	2.7000	0.00-0.01 prem
London 1.0000	1.0000	0.00-0.01 disc
Madrid 16.6667	16.6667	0.00-0.01 prem
Manila 13.0000	13.0000	0.00-0.01 prem
Moscow 10.0000	10.0000	0.00-0.01 prem
Paris 6.5596	6.5596	0.00-0.01 prem
Stockholm 10.0000	10.0000	0.00-0.01 prem
Vienna 16.6667	16.6667	0.00-0.01 prem
Zurich 16.6667	16.6667	0.00-0.01 prem
Bombay 13.4400	13.4400	0.00-0.01 prem
Calcutta 13.4400	13.4400	0.00-0.01 prem
Rangoon 13.4400	13.4400	0.00-0.01 prem
Singapore 13.4400	13.4400	0.00-0.01 prem
Colombo 13.4400	13.4400	0.00-0.01 prem
Madras 13.4400	13.4400	0.00-0.01 prem
Batavia 13.4400	13.4400	0.00-0.01 prem
Sourabaya 13.4400	13.4400	0.00-0.01 prem
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FAMILY MONEY MARKET

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FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

Premium travel

The excellent Centurian year-round travel insurance available to American Express cardholders has been substantially improved at no extra cost to policyholder. Amex's Centurian Personal Medical cover has been increased from £50,000 to £75,000, but the premium for a year's insurance remains at £35. It covers cardholders and their immediate family wherever they travel in the world and includes emergency dental treatment.

The premium for the optional Emergency Vehicle Assistance has been increased from £20 to £25 a year but is still good value for money. The personal policy which covers you for cancellation (£2,000) loss of luggage including ski equipment (£1,000) now costs £15 instead of £10.

Medical expense remains the most important risk to cover and this is incredibly good value at £35 a year.

Charges abolished

Front end charges have been abolished by British National Life for investors who put their money in BNL's seven unitized funds, through the Plan for Investment Plus scheme. Each investment is increased by 6 per cent (£5 per cent if the investment is under £2,500) and after three years, the plan can be cashed for the full bid value of the units. Earlier

encashment incurs a 5 per cent charge in the first year, 3 per cent in the second and 1 per cent in the third.

Most unitized insurance company savings schemes have a 5 per cent spread between the bid and offer price of units which constitutes a 5 per cent initial charge. Units must appreciate in value by 5 per cent before investor can get their money back in full.

Loan victims

There is an urgent need for more debt-counselling services and financial advice to help the growing number of victims of loan sharks, says Sir Gordon Borrie, director-general of the Office of Fair Trading, who is calling for fresh initiatives from the financial institutions.

"I take tough action against any licensed firm which behaves improperly," said Sir Gordon. "Trading Standards departments are doing their best to track down and prosecute unlicensed traders, and the police are dealing with cases of intimidation and violence. But our task is not easy as very few people are willing to come forward with evidence."

He would like to see the banks, building societies and finance companies doing more to help people avoid loan sharks and wants to hear of any fresh initiatives in this field. "In the meantime, the Office of Fair Trading is considering and discussing with other bodies the type of publicity material likely to be useful and effective."

Worries hit home

Fears of a rise in home loan rates, now materialized, has had a significant effect on house prices, according to a survey by the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers.

"The significant recovery of house prices in the second quarter of this year has been checked in many areas by worries about the economic upturn losing steam and doubts about the future trend in mortgage interest rates," the survey says.

House prices have risen by 3.8 per cent in England and Wales during the second quarter of this year, making a total rise of 6.5 per cent for the first six months of the year, according to the ISVA. Over the 12-month period ending in June the total increase was 11.5 per cent.

Banking offer

School leavers are being offered three years' free banking by Midland, "provided the current account is kept in credit and run normally," says the bank.

The package features monthly statements and an Autobank card, enabling the accountholder to withdraw up to £50 a week. The card is issued as soon as the first wage or salary is received as is the usual £50 cheque guarantee card.

There is also a free magazine, *Cheque in for Careers and Work*, obtainable from Midland branches.



Hang on, I think there may be a vacancy in our finance department

Automatic debiting

Co-op Bank is introducing a new system for Visa cardholders which allows the minimum sum due, shown on the monthly Visa statement, to be automatically debited to their Co-op Bank account.

Customers will be sent a leaflet which

includes a direct debit mandate. Once this is completed and processed, the bank will automatically debit the amount shown on the customer's monthly Visa statement under "minimum sum due". Payment will be made on the payment due date as shown on the statement, or on the preceding working day, should the date fall on a weekend or bank holiday.

American Express already has a similar system whereby the monthly total outstanding is automatically debited to your bank account. Unlike Visa or Access, American Express cards are not credit cards and the bill must be settled in full each month.

Saturday clinic

Two new services for investors are being launched by the fund manager Fidelity. A new regular savings plan, Fidelity Capital Builder has been put together, in response to demand from clients, it says.

The minimum monthly investment is £50 and savings can be linked to any of Fidelity's 10 authorized unit trusts. There is a bonus of a 1 per cent discount on units for investors who have been saving for 2 years, rising to 2 per cent after five years. Fidelity has three of its trusts in the top 20 performance table over the first six months of this year.

Fidelity is also extending its telephone advisory service to include a Saturday

morning investment clinic. People with financial questions can dial 100 and ask for Freefone Fidelity.

Mr Barry Bateman, marketing director, said: "From the calls we have had already, there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that many people are confused and at a loss to know where to turn. We aim to provide them with a starting point from which they can proceed to bring their affairs into some satisfactory order."

Home loans offer

Index-linked mortgages will be available to families on low incomes who purchase one of the Comben Homes now being built on two sites in London's dockland. Some £250,000 will be lent on these homes.

Robin Ellison, managing director of finance for Housing Limited, which manages the Building Trust offering the loans, said: "The mortgages are linked and make home-ownership affordable for people on lower incomes". Pension funds which invest with us do so because of the high real return and excellent security. In this case we have been able to reinvest money from Construction Industry Pension Funds. This is a profitable way to help the industry and Housebuyers without public subsidy."

EARNINGS

Becoming a pensioner can mean a pay rise

If you carry on working when you reach state pension age, you are quite likely to find yourself with an unexpected pay increase. In some cases, it could be a large one. This comes about because, once you reach pension age, you no longer have to pay national insurance contributions while you work. This can save up to £22.50 a week - the amount of the highest national insurance contribution. But although you may escape, your employer will not. He has to carry on paying his share of national insurance as usual!

To take full advantage of the deal, once you reach 65, if you are a man, or 60, if you are a woman, you need to get a "certificate of age exception" from the Department of Health and Social Security.

This is a form which must be given to your employer so that he knows you no longer have to pay national insurance. It also tells him officially not to take it off you. If you have more than one employer, you need a separate certificate for each.

These "certificates of age exception" are given out automatically by the DHSS if, when you return the retirement pension claim form which it sent to you about four months before you are due to retire, you say that you are not going give up work, or that you intend to some part-time work later.

If you do not give some indication that you will be working, you will not get a certificate, but you can ask your local DHSS office for one if you take up a job later.

If you stay with the same employer when you reach pension age, there is always the possibility that he may carry on taking the national insurance contributions from your wages until he gets your certificate.

When you do get it, ask your employer for a refund of these contributions - which he should pay. But if the tax year in which they were paid has ended, you might have to ask the DHSS for them back.

The self-employed benefit from this as well, but they do not need any special certificate. Once a self-employed person reaches pension age, he or she can simply stop paying the weekly stamp.

One word of caution. If you do have a state pension and work as well, you may be better off by not paying national insurance, but you could end up worse off if your pension is cut completely by the earnings rule. This starts to bite when earnings reach £65 a week.

Peter Garfield

Ian McDonald

Freeholds that offer rent and bargaining power

This week one man bought a house in Streatham for £500, another man got a house in Wood Green for £650 and someone else a block of six flats in Chingford for £300.

Of course, they cannot actually move in. What they have bought is the freeholds - the right to collect ground rents. In theory, they can hold on to their investments until the leases expire and then they have an unencumbered house for themselves. But life is not like that. Leaseholders have the right to stay on as statutory tenants paying a fair rent.

But in practice, what usually happens is that as leases run down to 50 or 60 years, the leaseholder realizes that they have a dwindling asset and may find it extremely difficult to sell because building societies like to see a 25-year life beyond their lending period.

The freeholder and leasee sit down to negotiate a sum for extending the leases to 99 years. If, say, a flat was worth £30,000 with a 50-year lease, but would be worth £40,000 with a 99-year lease, then the extension could be expected to be valued at about half the difference - £5,000.

Some people make a business

Another way that ground rent freeholds produce income above the regular annual payments is when leases are near to expiry and the residents cannot afford, or do not want to extend the leases. One smart London block has leases run down to 17 years. A 99-year lease on one of these flats would be worth £140,000 and the residents do not have that sort of money - so the freeholder is preparing to offer them £50,000 or thereabouts to go, so they will not become tenants. The freeholder then creates new 99-year leases and nets £90,000 per flat.

There has always been a market in freeholds but now there is a steady trickle of new freeholds created when large houses are converted into flats.

As a rough guide, freeholds sell at about five times the annual income. The house in Streatham, which is divided into three self-contained flats, produces £90 a year for the £500 investment, a return of 18 per cent per annum. The one in Wood Green, with two flats, makes £100 a year for the £650 investment (15.3 per cent) and the £300 block of flats £123.95 (41.3 per cent).

Managing agents' fees vary enormously, according to the scale of the task and the level of services provided. The responsibilities of being a landlord should not be undertaken lightly. Problems can also arise when trying to get people to pay their ground rent, service charges and insurance but although there is always a remedy in the courts, leaseholders are always forced to pay up if they want to put their flat on the market.

There are regular auction of ground rents at The Connaught Rooms in Covent Garden, London, and some agents such as Hilliers, Willmots, and Bernard Marcus in London have made a specialty of ground rents.

Vivien Goldsmith

When experts take the strain

You need movement in exchange rates to make any money out of currencies - and we have certainly seen movement over the past few weeks with the pound sliding by more than 10 per cent against the dollar.

Since the lifting of exchange controls in 1979, many currency funds have been launched with the aim of providing opportunities to speculate in currencies. They are usually based offshore because of British legal impediments but sometimes they have a listing on the London Stock Exchange.

These funds, which are normally run by merchant banks or other investment management groups, come in two basic types. First, there are those where the investor banks his own currency hunch by selecting a specific currency, such as Swiss francs of Japanese yen. Then there are the managed funds, denominated in sterling and sometimes in US dollars, where the basket of currencies is juggled by the investment managers themselves.

Of the former type, by far the most comprehensive (a choice of 14 in all) is marketed by N M Rothschild who can offer Italian lire, Dutch guilders and Singapore dollars in addition to the world's leading currencies.

Performance of managed currency funds to July 1, 1984			
Fund	£1,000 invested for 2 years	1 year	percentage increase since Jan 1, 1984
Britannia Managed Currency	1,261	1,088	3.3
Brown Shipley Int. Currency	1,057	982	-4.3
Forstburn	-	1,080	2.5
Grindley Henderson Int.	-	1,186	6.0
Guinness Mahon Int.	1,542	1,118	3.4
Hill Samuel Managed Currency	1,380	1,150	6.2
ICI Int. Managed	-	1,107	5.8
Montagu Int. Currency	-	1,177	6.8
RSC Int. Managed Currency	-	1,177	9.4
Schroder Managed Currency	1,266	1,088	9.3
Varbrugh Currency Fund	1,354	1,125	2.5

Source: Money Management

Among other financial institutions which market such funds are Hill Samuel and Save Prosper.

But in today's volatile markets it is not every investor who wants the responsibility of plumping for a specific currency. Hence the popularity of the managed funds where it is the currency experts employed by the institutions who take the decision strain.

Both types of fund received a setback last September when Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, announced his clampdown on the tax treatment. Previously, it had been possible to roll up all the gains so that investors escaped the income tax net completely.

That's all over now but the initial shock sustained by fund managers and investors alike seems to have given way to a view that currency funds still have a real place in investors' armoury.

So far this year there has been no shortage of new and reconstituted funds. The trend now is to opt for so-called "distributor" status. This means that provided at least 85 per cent of annual fund income is distributed to investors and is

thereby taxable as income, any gains made on the switching of currencies can still be treated as capital gain. That is the theory, anyway.

Most recent of the "distributor" funds to emerge is the Hambro Currency Distributor Fund. Subscription lists for this Guernsey-based investment company open next Wednesday, July 18, on five different individual currencies - sterling, dollars, Deutschmarks, Swiss francs and yen, as well as two managed funds - one denominated in sterling and the other in dollars.

Investment policy of the managed funds is to produce capital growth as well as income from negotiable securities such as Government bonds, corporate loan stocks and Eurobonds, and from obtaining wholesale money market rates on bank deposits. Minimum investment is £1,000 and there is an annual management fee of 0.75 per cent. There is also a front end load of 4 per cent for investments up to £25,000.

Earlier this month, Standard Chartered Bank, which runs its

currency funds from Jersey, added sterling and dollar managed options to their five existing individual currency funds. Again, there is a minimum investment of £1,000 with a 0.75 per cent annual management fee. The front end load is a competitive 3 per cent so an initial investment of £1,000 will actually count as £970 in the hands of the investment managers.

Both Hambro and Standard Chartered have yet to establish a performance record on their managed currency funds but some indication of what investors might expect can be gauged from the recent performance of similar funds shown in Table 1.

As can be seen, many of these funds have performed reasonably over a two-year period to July 1, although over the last 12 months the gains have been less sparkling. For many investors, the currency risk inherent in putting money into a unit trust which has a bias towards Japan or America is enough to satisfy their appetites.

Peter Garfield

Ian McDonald

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*The bank July 1984 simple annual rate will be 10.43% and the effective annual rate will be 11.00%. The effective annual rate reflects the benefit of compounding interest daily, and assumes that the simple annual rate remains constant and that there are no withdrawals over 1 year. Rates vary with market conditions. Deposits earn interest from the business day following the receipt of cleared funds.

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LIFE ASSURANCE

Optimism rallies after removal of tax relief

The impact of the removal of life assurance tax relief on premiums is likely to be considerably less than expected, according to a recent survey.

Only 5 per cent of people questioned by Mori in a survey conducted for Sun Life of Canada knew tax relief had been given, while 44 per cent were aware that tax relief had been removed from life assurance policies in the last Budget.

Half of those who were aware of tax relief changes thought the removal made life assurance less attractive with nearly all the

remainder feeling it made no difference. Eighty per cent of those questioned had no idea of the amount of tax relief that was removed and of 20 per cent who thought they knew, the average estimate was 18 per cent of premiums.

"The results of this in-depth survey confirms our belief that while the removal of tax relief was a retrograde step, it was always of secondary importance in the purchase life assurance," commented Mr Richard Baker, general manager of Sun Life of Canada.

Lambeth HIGH YIELD SHARES BUILDING SOCIETY

Basic Tax Paid p.a. Gross Equivalent with tax at 30%

8.05%-11.50% INTEREST PAID HALF YEARLY

INTEREST FORFEITED ON AMOUNT WITHDRAWN ONLY FOR NOTICE PERIOD.

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Member of the Building Society Association. Assets over £250,000,000.

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Capital returned in ten years - either as TAX FREE lump sum OR as TAX FREE INCOME FOR EVER.

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If there is a higher return available when we reply to your coupon then we will advise you of the best reputable alternatives.

*The 10.9% quoted is for a male aged 40, standard risk category, investing £10,000. Different ages, sex and frequency of income will produce slightly different results.

Write for details to: Malcolm Benge, Trafford Facilities (Life & Personal) Ltd, PO Box 38, St Albans, Herts AL1 4UN

Name Address Age (18-65)

Your Tax Rate Investment (min. £2,000)

Income required monthly/yearly?

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Harvard Securities Limited

Harvard House

42-44 Dolphin Street

London SE1 0UQ

01-928 2661

The application list will open at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 18th July 1984, and will close at 3 p.m. on Thursday 20th July 1984.

FAMILY MONEY

MORTGAGES

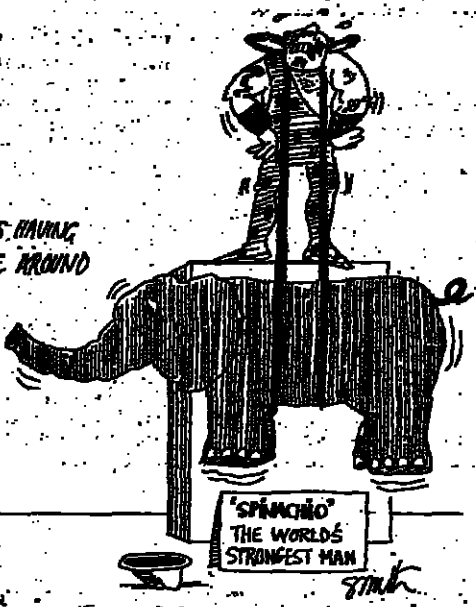
More rises in home loan rates to come

Homebuyers' worst fears were confirmed with the announcement from the Building Society Association of a 2.25 percentage point rise in home loan rates to 14.5 per cent.

But this is only half the story. With the collapse of the BSA interest rate cartel last autumn, societies are now "advised" what mortgage rate to charge and, quite apart from the differentials already in existence, societies like the Woolwich will go it alone with a different, higher, mortgage rate.

A Woolwich spokesman said: "Why shouldn't building societies set their own rates. We were putting together an announcement of a change in the Woolwich rates anyway last Thursday."

IT'S NOT AS BAD AS THINKING A 12% MORTGAGE ROUNDED YOUR NECK.



The Woolwich is the only leading building society which does not have differential mortgage rates and all Woolwich borrowers were, until now, able to borrow at the BSA advised rate of 10.25 per cent. This resulted in long queues for home loans at Woolwich branches and heavy demand from those seeking to borrow larger than average amounts who would be charged anything up to 2 per cent more by other building societies.

The Woolwich Board meets on Tuesday when they are expected to announce a home loan rate of 12.75 per cent, applicable to new borrowers.

for loans over £25,000 with borrowers in the £25,000-plus bracket dipping into their pockets for an extra 2 per cent. Even if Abbey were to stick to the BSA advised rates, these larger borrowers would be paying 14.5 per cent for their money, or 14.75 per cent if they were on the endowment method.

Worst hit are endowment linked loans

Mr David Blake of the Woolwich said: "We would expect other societies to establish rates different from the BSA advised rate." And Mr John Bayliss of Abbey National said: "The situation is wide open. We will be considering all aspects of the interest rate changes." Like the Woolwich, Abbey will be holding its board meeting on Tuesday to fix new rates. Earlier in the week, the banks announced their 2 per cent rise in base rates to 12 per cent. Abbey National had been predicting a mortgage rate as high as 13 per cent. "There is the possibility of a higher basic mortgage rate and we will obviously be looking at differentials", Mr Bayliss said.

Abbey National charges extra

Some societies, like the Cheltenham & Gloucester and Bradford & Bingley, introduce differentials at £15,000 level while Nationwide introduced a 0.25 per cent premium on all new loans under £40,000 in April this year with an extra 1.25 per cent on loans over £40,000.

The table shows what the mortgage rate increase means for borrowers with differing sizes of home loan at varying rates of interest. For the average borrower with a £25,000 loan, not paying a differential, the increase works out at £25.75 a month on a new loan, a considerable extra sum to find for many first-time borrowers.

Worst hit are the borrowers with endowment-linked loans. Repayment borrowers are usually able to extend the term of their loan if they find the new repayments too onerous. Endowment borrowers will have to bear the brunt of higher interest charges as extending the term of the loan would not produce reduced interest payments. To do this would in any case require an extension of the life policy, the proceeds of which are used to repay the loan. And with the removal of Life Assurance Premium Relief (LAPR) in the Budget, any alteration or extension of a policy would result in the loss of tax relief for existing borrowers - clearly something to be avoided.

But Mr Herbert Walden, chairman of the BSA, said the societies would look sympathetically at endowment borrowers who found themselves in difficulties with their loan wanting to convert to a repayment loan over a longer term, as a way of reducing monthly repayments.

Lorna Bourke

INTEREST

Offshore funds lose ground

As interest rates leap upwards, anyone with money deposited in one of the offshore sterling deposit funds might be surprised to discover that his investment is not showing such a good return as the onshore counterparts.

Under normal conditions the offshore funds tend to offer interest rates about ½ percentage point higher than their onshore counterparts. This basically reflects the greater expense involved in running an offshore fund.

In the last few days, however, the difference has widened enormously because of rising interest rates. Among the offshore funds Hill Samuel and Rothschild Old Court International Reserve are offering about 8 per cent. Royal Bank of Canada 8.3 per cent and Charterhouse's Central Assets fund, 8.5 per cent (all net charges).

But among the onshore funds, the lowest rate on offer from the United Dominion Trust Seven-Day Account is 8.625 per cent. Around the middle of the range is Aitken Hume's fund offering 10.5 per cent, while Britannia and M&G pay 11.75 per cent and 11.78 per cent respectively. The top paying onshore fund is Schroder Wages' fund for investments of over £10,000 which offers 11.875 per cent.

The reason for the difference between the rates on the two types of fund is simply that onshore funds respond immediately to rate changes. Offshore funds take longer.

The average maturity on securities on Rothschild's Old Court International Fund, for instance, is 26 days, so it will take at least that long for the full effect of the interest rate rises to work through to the rate offered by the fund.

Richard Thomson

PORT

Vintage year for liquid assets

Vintage port, after fine claret, is the most consistently reliable wine investment. The declaration of a vintage is therefore both a pointer to the trade (and auction room prices for past vintages) and the first opportunity for the investor to buy without undue restriction of a quota.

The announcement from several port houses that they judge the 1982 to be of a fine enough quality to be a "vintage" should be seen in the context that this is only the fourth general year to be declared since 1970; the others were 1975, 1977 and 1980. Merchants differentiate between bottle-aged ports (vintage and crusted, basically) and wood aged (ruby, tawny, white). Crusted, which has similar characteristics to vintage but is a blend of years, lacks investment following.

Some houses do not declare a vintage, preferring to concentrate on leading wood brands, while the microclimate in the steeply terraced Douro valley of northern Portugal leads others to blend into crusted or good woods like fine tawny. Selection from individual quintas (farms) is considered vital for a good vintage like 1982 to be declared.

Croft, which is distributed here by a Grand Metropolitan subsidiary and has been shipping port for more than 300 years, is one to declare. It compares the 1982 with the harvest of 1961 for being one of the earliest for picking, starting at Roeda on September 9.

The market for vintage Port, as the latest list from Harvey's of Bristol declares, "continues to be very firm with prices hardening all the time".

The 1982 declarations, being quoted by traditional merchants at around £72 per dozen bottles, lying Portugal, should be compared in price with other recent vintages. To this price should be added the shipping, documentation (for customs clearance) and insurance of about £5, duty at the rate ruling when the wine is cleared from bond (currently £17.40), delivery within Britain and Vat at 15 per cent to the whole, including duty.

Tips to consider include asking if storage in Portugal is cheaper than in a British bond (it is complementary with the importer's Delancey until January 1, 1986); if payment is required in stages (since the merchant is unlikely to be invoiced until October); and the advantages of holding it eventually under bond, so as to make any later resale more attractive to diplomatic and overseas buyers who do not pay excise duty and customs tariff.

Some Houses offer a sliding discount scale for quantity if purchasing in excess of 25 dozen bottles.

In addition to the promising Croft, Delancey has also declared, taking wine from its best quintas of the Rio Torro and Roncao.

Sandeman, distributed by Seagram (noted for its Californian sales of Paul Masson), as well as Royal Oporto, has declared.

Ferreira, handled by the Whitbread subsidiary Stowells of Chelsea, has also declared but it is not this company's practice to offer its House until the port is either mature or semi-mature.

For those comparing prices, the 1980 is around £115-£121, the 1977 is about £120, the 1975 between some £25-£100, the 1970 around £130-£140 and 1966 about £160. These are typical merchant's prices. Good ranges include Adnams of Southwold, Suffolk; John Harvey and Sons of Bristol; Christopher's (part of Scottish and Newcastle); Lay and Wheeler of Colchester, Essex; Tanners of Shrewsbury, and Laytons in London.

Conal Gregory

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Value of £70,000 investment after drawing two half-yearly income payments of £500 each year	
This Plan	Building Society
Year 1	11,519
Year 2	15,453
Year 3	16,320
Year 4	24,004
Year 5	28,499
Year 6	46,770
Year 7	53,745
	9,601
	9,277
	9,132
	9,009
	8,803
	8,425
	8,004

To find out more, complete and return the coupon without delay. N.B. It should be remembered that unit values can fall as well as rise. While past performance cannot reasonably be taken as a guide to the future, the value of the management group involved are clearly well above average.

To Reed Stenhouse Gibbs, 10 Grosvenor Gardens, FREEPOST, London SW1W 0BR (no stamp required) Telephone: 01-730 8221.

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Name _____
Address _____
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Present Income £ _____ Date of Birth _____ No. Rate _____

Lump sum amount available for investment £ _____

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A BUILDING SOCIETY MAY NOT BE THE BEST PLACE FOR £5,000.

If you had put £5,000 into an ordinary share account with a building society 3 years ago, the return on your investment would have been £6,209 (£5,000 capital, plus £1,209 income.)

As the figures below show, this is an astounding £2,731.63 less than if you had invested £5,000 in the various Trusts which comprise our Monthly Income Scheme.

And this is only in the comparatively short term.

£2,731.63 MORE	
FROM US THAN A BUILDING SOCIETY	
£5,000 IN TRUSTS IN OUR MONTHLY INCOME SCHEME	£5,000 IN BUILDING SOCIETY ORDINARY SHARE ACCOUNT
Income: 1981 278.02 1982 329.73 1983 354.08	Interest: 1981 244.75 1982 242.95 1983 237.50
Total £938.83	Total £729.20
Capital value £2,804.09	Capital value £5,000.00
TOTAL £3,742.92	TOTAL £5,729.20
Investment period 2.181 - 3.184	
* Net income to a basic rate taxpayer	
† Other to other banks	
‡ Over the entire period an amount of £5,000 invested in this manner in the FT Share Index Ordinary Share Index and the British Government 5-15 year index would now be worth £7,705.	

Unit trusts are generally thought of in terms of long-term savings and so the above figures, showing how quickly our Scheme has out-performed a building society, will probably come as a surprise to most people.

CAPITAL GROWTH, PLUS A GROWING MONTHLY INCOME.

Our Monthly Income Scheme is made up of four of our historically high-performing trusts, plus one more recently launched trust with a high-income return from the outset.

Payment dates bring a welcome cheque to investors each month.

The Scheme's aim is not just for a good income which increases over the years. It also aims for long-term capital growth.

With a building society, you cannot have both.

To get capital growth in a building society's ordinary share account you must reinvest your interest; in which case you have no income. But if you take your interest as income, you cannot have capital growth. Your £5,000 will only ever remain worth £5,000. (Indeed, with inflation, it becomes worth less each year.)

how money put in our trusts has kept growing in both capital and income value.

THE LONGER YOU SAVE, THE BETTER.

Over the last 5 years, for instance, average income growth was 60%. Over 10 years, 129.3%.

From a building society, your income has actually fallen over the long term. Building societies have always been at the mercy of fluctuating interest rates.

You should remember, when considering unit trusts, that the price of units, and income from them, may go down as well as up. Past performance is not necessarily any guide to future growth.

TRUST	OBJECTIVE	CAPITAL GROWTH (EST. 1979-1983)	CURRENT YIELD (EST. 1983)	GROSS INCOME PROGRESSION (EST. JANUARY 1984)	INCOME PAYMENT DATES
TRUSTEE	Income and capital growth from a portfolio of British and overseas companies.	24.01%	4.18%	£70	15 Feb, 15 Aug, 15 Mar, 15 Sep
GENERAL	The highest income that is consistent with the security of capital.	24.34%	4.80%	£66	15 Feb, 15 Aug, 15 Mar, 15 Sep
EXTRA INCOME	A reasonable return of income with future prospects of capital and income growth.	24.85%	4.18%	£58	15 Feb, 15 Aug, 15 Mar, 15 Sep
GILT & FIXED INTEREST INCOME	A high and growing income together with long term conservation from a portfolio composed mainly of Government Stocks.	23.05%	6.92%	£53	15 Feb, 15 Aug, 15 Mar, 15 Sep
	A high income from a managed portfolio investing in British Government Stocks and other fixed interest securities.	21.02%	10.22%	£134	15 Jan, 15 April, 15 July, 15 Oct

We don't recommend, of course, that you put every penny of your savings in our Monthly Income Scheme. But if you have £5,000 or more that you know you won't need for everyday expenses or unforeseen emergencies, our Scheme is very attractive.

Look at the big chart, and you can see

Simply complete the application form below to take advantage of our Scheme.

UNIT PRICES.

On 11 July the offer price of units, which can change daily, were: Trustee 66.7p, Income 195.9p, General 84.3p, Extra Income 47.7p, Gilt & Fixed Interest Income 51.1p.

BARCLAYS UNICORN MONTHLY INCOME SCHEME

You can invest in the Barclays Unicorn Monthly Income Scheme with a lump sum of £5,000 or more. Your money will be divided equally between all 5 trusts.

The initial service charge, which is included in the price of units, is 5%, except for the Gilt & Fixed Interest Income Trust, where it is 3% on investments of up to £5,000 in that Trust (less for larger orders).

For all Trusts there is an annual charge of 1% of the Trust's value, plus VAT, which is deducted from the Trust's income. This charge may be increased to 1% plus VAT subject to 5 months' notice to unitholders, except that in the case of the Trustee Fund the charge is limited to its present rate.

You can sell back units on any business day at the bid price ruling when your instructions arrive. Payment will normally be made within seven working days of receipt of the redemption certificate. The prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times and other newspapers.

To Barclays Unicorn Limited, 258 Roud Road, London E7 4JB. Tel: 01-524 5544.

SURNAME (Mr, Mrs, or Miss) _____
(Please include maiden name)
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____

DATE _____

10% withdrawal that units will be sold back to you at the offer price ruling on the date of receipt of this application. (Consent under the provisions of the Securities and Investments Act 1978, and the provisions will be paid within six weeks. In the case of joint applications all must agree. Redemption is paid in qualified instalments; rates are available on request. This offer is not available in respect of the Republic of Ireland.)

SIGNED _____

DATE _____

Barclays Unicorn Limited, Registered Office: 258 Roud Road, London E7 4JB. Registered in England No. 20021. Telephone: 01-524 5544. Telex: 411349. Cable: 411349.

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Foreign Bonds 38.5 42.1 -21 23.4%
Foreign Stocks 48.5 42.1 -21 23.4%
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UK Stocks 44.5 47.4 -27 6.0%
Foreign Bonds 48.5 42.1 -21 23.4%
Foreign Stocks 48.5 42.1 -21 23.4%

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ABN Bank 12%
Barclays 12%
BCCI 12%
Citibank Savings 12%
Consolidated Cys 12%
Continental Trust 12%
C. Hoare & Co 12%
Lloyds Bank 12%
Midland Bank 12%
Nat Westminister 12%
TSB 12%
Williams & Glyn's 12%
Citibank NA 12%

1 Mortgage Rate Rate:
1 day deposits on sums of under
£10,000, 9 1/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000,
9 1/2%; £50,000 and over, 10%.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page.

If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, July 27. Contango Day, July 30. Settlement Day, Aug 6

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Steadier at the close

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, July 27. Contango Day, July 30. Settlement Day, Aug 6

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES Portfolio

DAILY DIVIDEND
£2,000

Claims required
for
+31 points

WEEKLY DIVIDEND
£20,000

Claims required
for
+70 points

No.	Company	Year gain or loss
1	ELECTRICALS	
2	Procter	
3	Northern Elec	
4	Cambridge Elec	
5	Greaves	
6	Sound Diffusion	
7	Energy Serv	
8	Rural Elec	
9	First Castle Elec	
10	Dale Elec	
11	Ward & Goldstone	
12	FOODS	
13	Alpine Drinks	
14	Bejam	
15	Argyll	
16	Kwik Save	
17	Rich Lovell	
18	Levens	
19	Nida Foods	
20	Tesco	
21	Unigate	
22	Maynards	
23	INDUSTRIALS A-D	
24	Coastal	
25	Adco	
26	Br Sydon	
27	Amec Telecom	
28	Domination Int	
29	Bakrock	
30	Cribb & Sons	
31	Bernards	
32	Rockwell	
33	INDUSTRIALS E-Z	
34	Two	
35	UKO	
36	Westland	
37	Wolverhampton Leam	
38	Turner & Newall	
39	Steeley	
40	TNT	
41	Weir	
42	Wyndham Eng	
43	Sidmout	
44	Year Daily Total	

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in today's Newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

1984 High Low Stock Price Chgs % P/E

SHORTS

Company	Price	Chgs	%	P/E
Alpine Drinks	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Amec Telecom	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Argyll	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Bakrock	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Bernards	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Bejam	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Cambridge Elec	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Coastal	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Cribb & Sons	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Dale Elec	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Domination Int	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Energy Serv	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
First Castle Elec	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Greaves	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Kwik Save	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Levens	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Nida Foods	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Procter	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Rural Elec	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Sound Diffusion	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Tesco	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Unigate	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Ward & Goldstone	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Westland	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Wolverhampton Leam	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Wyndham Eng	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Year Daily Total	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75

MEDIUMS

Company	Price	Chgs	%	P/E
Alpine Drinks	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Amec Telecom	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Argyll	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Bakrock	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Bernards	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Bejam	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Cambridge Elec	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Coastal	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Cribb & Sons	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Dale Elec	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Domination Int	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Energy Serv	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
First Castle Elec	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Greaves	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Kwik Save	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Levens	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Nida Foods	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Procter	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Rural Elec	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Sound Diffusion	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Tesco	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Unigate	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Ward & Goldstone	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Westland	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Wolverhampton Leam	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Wyndham Eng	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Year Daily Total	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75

LONGS

Company	Price	Chgs	%	P/E
Alpine Drinks	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Amec Telecom	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Argyll	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Bakrock	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Bernards	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Bejam	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Cambridge Elec	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Coastal	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Cribb & Sons	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Dale Elec	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Domination Int	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Energy Serv	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
First Castle Elec	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Greaves	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Kwik Save	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Levens	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Nida Foods	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Procter	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Rural Elec	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Sound Diffusion	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Tesco	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Unigate	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Ward & Goldstone	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Westland	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Wolverhampton Leam	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Wyndham Eng	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Year Daily Total	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75

BREWERIES

Company	Price	Chgs	%	P/E
Alpine Drinks	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Amec Telecom	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Argyll	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Bakrock	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Bernards	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Bejam	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Cambridge Elec	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Coastal	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Cribb & Sons	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Dale Elec	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Domination Int	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Energy Serv	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
First Castle Elec	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Greaves	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Kwik Save	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Levens	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Nida Foods	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Procter	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Rural Elec	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Sound Diffusion	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Tesco	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Unigate	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Ward & Goldstone	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Westland	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Wolverhampton Leam	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Wyndham Eng	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Year Daily Total	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Company	Price	Chgs	%	P/E
Alpine Drinks	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Amec Telecom	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Argyll	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Bakrock	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Bernards	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Bejam	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Cambridge Elec	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Coastal	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Cribb & Sons	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Dale Elec	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Domination Int	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Energy Serv	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
First Castle Elec	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Greaves	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Kwik Save	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Levens	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Nida Foods	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Procter	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Rural Elec	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Sound Diffusion	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Tesco	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Unigate	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Ward & Goldstone	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Westland	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Wolverhampton Leam	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Wyndham Eng	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75
Year Daily Total	11.75	0.00	0.0	11.75

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ATHLETICS

World record in 3,000m is Miss Decker's Olympic aim

Eugene, Ore. (Reuters) - Mary Decker, the world champion at 1,500 metres and 3,000 metres, has officially entered the 3,000 metres at the Los Angeles Olympics, deciding against running in the 1,500 metres.

She will, therefore, come face to face with Britains Zola Budd, who has been selected for the longer event along with Wendy Sly and Jane Furniss. Miss Decker said it was hard to accept that she could not double at the Olympics, but it was not a hard decision. "I believe I'm doing what I can do best at the Olympics," she added.

The decision not to run in the 1,500 metres was reached after a conference last Tuesday with Dick Brown, her coach at her club, Athletics West. Miss Decker said several factors had

Smog signals may spell big trouble

Los Angeles (Reuters) - As tension builds up for the Olympic Games, starting on July 28, so does the Los Angeles smog. Already this month the city has had more "smog alerts" than any comparable period in the past six years. During an alert people are advised to cut down on physical activity - an instruction unlikely to appeal to an Olympic athlete.

Magnifying the problem, temperatures in central Los Angeles on July 9 reached 95°F (35°C), equalling a century-old record.

The cars of hundreds and thousands of visitors for the Games will add to the pollution problems of Los Angeles, Donald Horstman of the Federal Government's

Environmental Protection Agency told a recent meeting of the American Lung Association that athletes could expect to suffer coughing and pain beneath the chest. Mr Horstman said that some athletes who were monitored in the kind of high pollution that often affects parts of Los Angeles could not finish the tests.

Jim Binkos, an official of a local air quality management office, says that nobody really knew just how bad the smog was going to be because there were too many imponderable factors, such as how bright the sunlight would be and whether the winds would be strong enough to blow the blanket of foul air away.

Ovett hopes to be fit for international

By Pat Butcher

Steve Ovett is hoping that the skin rash which kept him out of the Peugeot Talbot Cup at Crystal Palace last night, will not prevent him running for England in the match against Poland and Hungary, at Birmingham tomorrow.

On returning from a successful race in Lausanne on Tuesday evening, Ovett developed a rash, which a skin specialist diagnosed as a mild virus. But Ovett was feeling better last night, and said that he expected to run tomorrow in the 800 metres, his shorter Olympic distance, at which he has only had two races so far this season.

Richard Shave, the British discus thrower, has threatened legal action after failing to gain selection for the Olympic Games squad.

Stanley broke his own British record last week in the United States, where he now lives with his girl friend, Mary Decker, the American world champion at 1,500 and 3,000 metres. The selectors have decided to enter only Bob Weir, of Birkenhead, who was the Olympic trial, for the discus in Los Angeles.

"I had a great chance of winning a medal, possibly even a gold, but the selectors are denying me the chance," Stanley said. "It's so unfair. I'm the best discus thrower Britain has ever produced, and I intend to do something about it legally. I must have a good case if I go to court. They are stopping me from making money."

MOERS, The West German decathlete world record holder, Japan Hines, resumed training yesterday after dislocating his back on Wednesday during practice for the Olympics (Reuters reports).



Raising his sights: Hingsen's target is Olympic gold

Countess who has sunk a few times says she will survive Round Britain on turbos and spirit

Renato della Valle, whose name sounds more like one of the celebrated chefs at the old laundrette Café de Paris, has brought his own doctor and physiotherapist for possibly the toughest British sporting event of the year. Fiona, Countess of Arran, modestly thinks she should be able to survive, "because I do quite a lot of gardening to keep fit".

Part of the appeal of the second round-Britain offshore powerboat race, sponsored by Everest Double Glazing, is that a handful of hardy ladies will roar off from Spithead this morning, in a haze of foam and exhaust, alongside those tanned and supposedly chauvinist males whose seafaring good looks are abetted by fathoms of money. Of course, much of the finance is nowadays commercially sponsored, as in all sports, though few of the owner-drivers will have actually arrived in Portsmouth by public transport: housekeeping is measured less by which car or boat they can afford, than by how many.

What they all have in common is the course of 10 stages over 1,500 miles during the next 12 days, they face the prospect of occasionally heading into gales of 60mph or more, maybe today on the way to Falmouth. The race, initiated in 1969 by Group Captain Crabbe, requires seamanship and navigation as well as the brute force of 100hp turbo engines in a passage embracing Fishguard, the Isle of Man, Oban, Inverness, Dundee, White, Great Yarmouth and Ramsgate.

Lady Arran's 500hp Laura Lucy II, designed by Don Sheehy and named after her granddaughters, is one of the smaller craft but has been upgraded to class I because she rather sanely considers there are better chances against fewer opponents. "We decided to pretend to be millionaires for a fortnight. We're under-powered, but we hope the bigger boats will go so fast they'll blow up and we will paddle by them."

She has been addicted for 20 years or so and holds several national speed records. Her sixty-sixth birthday comes in mid-July, yet the physical rigours do not intimidate her.

"I'm pretty fit and healthy, I don't drink or eat too much. Problems? Well, I've never been injured, but I've sunk a few times, swimming around with the boat behind me, and once I motored straight to the bottom. It was beautiful, just like a submarine, with all those bubbles."

In 1969 she was lying sixteenth at half-way when a family illness obliged retirement. The only private entry, she prefers not to discuss the cost, "in case my son should read it."

Ted Telesman, widely-known for his motor racing, rides the 2,000hp catamaran Carlberg, with four Ford Salvoe Marathon diesels, backed by a substantial shore team, all costing £100,000 a year - "about the level of a formula III car," he reckons. Telesman considers this race more important than the world championships at

Viareggio. His personal business is selling fast military and fire boats to Egypt and Brunei and the United States Customs.

"The next 12 days will prove catamarans operate in all conditions," he says. "Constant speed, not top speed, will win. It's an endurance race and it's going to be rough."

For della Valle, the current world champion from Italy, this is an experiment with an all-Italian boat, which other sponsorship commitments prevent him entering in championship points races. Lamborghini make their first entry into water with two 720hp petrol engines tuned down for the distance. "We are taking a big risk with a new boat and new engine," he says cautiously. "The key to the race will be how many last the course, mentally and physically."

The smallest boat, apart from John Canham's inflatable, which was third overall in 1969, is the evocatively named Agfa Bluebird, driven by Glyn Campbell in partnership with Michael Standring, the only entry in class IIIA. A former international show jumper, she has been recently drawn to powerboats by pride and nostalgia for her late father's exploits, and will try for the women's world water speed record in October.

Small, stilt, blond, she admits to being a complete novice. "I'll need more luck in this event than I will in October," she laughs.

David Miller

GOLF



Looking ahead: Jan Stephenson sets her cap for a second successive win

Alcott and Washam share lead

Peabody, Massachusetts (Reuters) - Amy Alcott had a one-under-par 71 to share the first round lead with Jo Ann Washam in the thirty-second United States women's open championship yesterday. Miss Alcott's round included three birdies and Miss Washam's had four birdies.

Miss Alcott won the Lady Keystone Open two weeks ago on the strength of a closing round of seven-under-par 65. Last week she claimed a third place finish at the Jamie Farr Toledo Classic by scoring a three-under-par 69 over the final 18 holes.

"I'm very pleased with a very

consistent round of golf," Miss Alcott, aged 23, said. "This is not an easy golf course, it is not set up for phenomenal rounds, but I was consistent, and consistency means success in professional golf."

Miss Washam played her first nine holes at two-over-par before rallying on the back nine for a share of the lead.

The defending champion, Jan Stephenson, and Ayako Okamoto, opened the 72-hole event with identical even-par 72 scores. They were level late in the afternoon with the amateur, Joan Ellis. Patty Sheehan led a group at one-over par 73 which also included Kathy

Whitworth, Rosie Jones, Heather Dewar and Alice Miller.

Williamsburg, Virginia (Reuters) - Williamsburg Country Club had round scores (18 holes) as follows: 1st round: 1. J. Alcott, 71; 2. J. Washam, 71; 3. J. Stephenson, 72; 4. A. Okamoto, 72; 5. J. Ellis, 73; 6. R. Jones, 74; 7. H. Dewar, 75; 8. A. Miller, 76; 9. K. Jones, 77; 10. P. Sheehan, 78; 11. J. Washam, 79; 12. J. Stephenson, 80; 13. J. Ellis, 81; 14. J. Washam, 82; 15. J. Stephenson, 83; 16. J. Ellis, 84; 17. J. Washam, 85; 18. J. Stephenson, 86; 19. J. Ellis, 87; 20. J. Washam, 88; 21. J. Stephenson, 89; 22. J. Ellis, 90; 23. J. Washam, 91; 24. J. Stephenson, 92; 25. J. Ellis, 93; 26. J. Washam, 94; 27. J. Stephenson, 95; 28. J. Ellis, 96; 29. J. Washam, 97; 30. J. Stephenson, 98; 31. J. Ellis, 99; 32. J. Washam, 100; 33. J. Stephenson, 101; 34. J. Ellis, 102; 35. J. Washam, 103; 36. J. Stephenson, 104; 37. J. Ellis, 105; 38. J. Washam, 106; 39. J. Stephenson, 107; 40. J. Ellis, 108; 41. J. Washam, 109; 42. J. Stephenson, 110; 43. J. Ellis, 111; 44. J. Washam, 112; 45. J. 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Saturday

Television and radio programmes
Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Daville

Sunday

BBC 1

8.20 Open University, Unit 8.25.

8.40 The Saturday Picture Show. Films, competitions, cartoons and guests introduced by Mark Curry. Hot Gossip are in the studios are Chae and Dave and the World Hula Hoop Champion, Chico Johnson. On the east coast Maggie Phillips watches as the crew of HMS Yarmouth receive the Freedom of Great Yarmouth. Maggie also meets singer Dana 10.52 Weather.

10.55 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is 10.55 Grandstand. Third Test. Live coverage of the third day's play in the match at Headingley between England and the West Indies. The commentators are Richie Benaud, Jim Laker, Tom Graveney and Ray Illingworth. 1.05 News summary. 1.05 Golf: the final round of the Lawrence Brierley Classic from the Belfry, Sutton Coldfield. The commentators are Harry Campbell, Peter Alliss, Clive Clark, Bruce Crichton and Alex Hay. 1.40, 2.10 and 2.40 Racing from Lingfield live coverage of the 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45 races. The commentators are Julian Wilson and John Lindsay. 4.30 Show Jumping from Hickstead: coverage of the Everest Double Glazing Grand Prix. 5.00 News. 5.10 Automan. The crimefighter who began life in a computer game investigates the case of a shifty sheriff who steals a car and in order to bring in illegal immigrants to use as forced labour (Ceebox titles page 170).

5.55 News with Jan Leeming. 6.05 Sport and regional news.

6.10 The Cupperfield Comedy Company. A comedy and music from David Cupperfield and his guests, Debbie Arnold, Joanne Campbell, Nicky Katt, Stuart Hill and Murray Kinnear. 6.40 Film: Rip Bravo (1983) starring John Wayne, Dean Martin and Angie Dickinson. A sheriff finds his town besieged by a gang led by the brother of the sheriff's only ally and an old cripple, a reformed drunk and a few other misfits. Can he hold out until the Marshal arrives? Directed by Howard Hawks.

9.00 Dynasty. Blake decides to fly to Singapore alone to find out if his son is still alive, but Alexis ambushes him at the airport in order to talk business.

9.45 News and sport.

10.00 The final part of the superior thriller about computer fraud in high places. Starring Richard Griffiths as the reluctant hero (Ceebox titles page 170).

10.50 Film: The Outside Man (1972) starring Jessi Lewis and Angie Dickinson. Thriller about a hit-man who, after he has done his deed, returns to his hotel room to find his passport and papers missing and, on further investigation, he is introduced. He also becomes the intended victim of a mysterious assassin. Directed by Jacques Deray.

12.30 Weather.

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain presented by Jenny Kelly and Toni Arden. Saturday Call with celebrity Dora Collins at 8.35 news with Jonathan Munn. The special guests are Brenda Vaccaro and Marilyn Wico.

8.30 SPLAT presented by Adam Wico.

ITV LONDON

9.25 LWT Information. 9.30 Sesame Street where the Muppet make learning seem fun. 10.30 The 72. Fun and games and mystery.

12.15 World of Sport introduced by Dickie Davies. The line-up is: 12.20 Rugby League: highlights of the game between New Zealand and Great Britain in Auckland; 12.45 News followed by Australian pools check; 12.50 The Tour de France highlights of the Pyrenees stage and yesterday's which began the second of the race; 1.20 The ITV Sunday. 1.30, 2.00, 2.30 and 3.00 at York and 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45 from Ayr; 1.50 Boulding live coverage of the 1.50, 2.15 and 2.45 races. The commentators are Julian Wilson and John Lindsay. 4.30 Show Jumping from Hickstead: coverage of the Everest Double Glazing Grand Prix. 5.00 News. 5.10 Automan. The crimefighter who began life in a computer game investigates the case of a shifty sheriff who steals a car and in order to bring in illegal immigrants to use as forced labour (Ceebox titles page 170).

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12.30 Weather.

BBC 2

8.25 Open University, Unit 3.10.

8.30 Film: The Diamond Queen (1983) starring Fernando Lamas and Ariane Dahl. Seventeenth century adventure with Lamas as Tavernier, a dishevelled young man who is searching for a fabulous gem to top the French crown. In his pursuit of this he falls in love with the beautiful Queen Mary, the unhappy wife of the Great Mogul. Directed by John Brahm.

4.30 Cricket: Third Test.

6.10 One of the Family. A documentary about the joy of keeping pigeons. Martin Foster visits Mike Knaggs, owner of the largest private pigeon loft in the country. Mr Knaggs is explaining to Brian Watkins how simple it is to keep the birds (C).

6.30 Atplay - 9 June 1982. A documentary about a day in the life of New York's rock roll radio station - WNEW-FM (C).

7.30 News and sport.

7.35 Prisoner of the Desert. A dramatized German conversation course.

7.50 Countdown to the Moon. Narrated by James Burke. A programme that recalls the first lunar landing, 15 years ago, before the launch of Apollo 11 which took Neil Armstrong to his giant step on the moon.

8.00 Mick Burke Award 1984. The first of two programmes in which six amateur films compete in an expedition film competition. The three films seen this evening feature: expeditions to the River Niger; the highlands of Ecuador; and to northern Kenya.

8.30 Saturday Review. The last programme of the series on the arts and the media, presented by Russell Davies and Minette Martin. The programme includes reviews of William Clark's Catechism and Anthony Sher's Richard III.

10.00 Cricket: Third Test. Highlights of the third day's play.

10.30 Newsnight International. A compilation of Julian O'Halloran's reports from Iran for Newsnight.

11.20 News with Jan Leeming.

11.25 International Show-Jumping. Highlights from the Everest Double Glazing Grand Prix at Hickstead. Ends at 12.05.

1.05 Closedown.

CHANNEL 4

2.00 Ark on the Move. The final programme in Gerald Dunell's series on the preservation of threatened species comes from the island of Rodrigues, near Mauritius (C).

2.30 Flare Pack Up Your Troubles. (1932) starring Laurel and Hardy as two First World War soldiers who promise their dying friend that they will make sure his daughter is reunited with her rich grandfather. Directed by George Marshall and Raymond McCarey.

3.45 Film: Paris 1900* (1945-46) A re-creation of Paris between 1900 and 1914 using early film photographs and fiction films. Directed by Nicole Vedres. The narrator is Monty Woolley.

4.35 Buffalo Bill. American comedy series about an odious television chat-show host. Brookside. A compilation of the week's two episodes.

6.00 Ear Say. Weekly pop music magazine.

7.00 News summary and weather followed by 7 Days. Michael Chabon talks to Sir John about the industrial unrest. Helena Hayman discusses Britons' dietary habits with Geoffrey Cannon; and there is film of the Fincham Community in Scotland.

7.30 World Alive. Spain. The first of a new series of natural history documentaries about the wildlife of Spain.

8.00 Caravans. The final episode in the dramatization of the life of the Spanish author.

9.00 Callan. The secret service agent has the task of protecting a courier.

10.00 They Came from Somewhere Else. Episode one of a six-episode science fiction comedy drama set in a present day new town.

10.35 Film: Public Enemy's Wife* (1935) starring Pat O'Brien. On release from prison where she served a term for her husband's crimes, she is reunited with her husband, Judith Harcourt, who has decided on a divorce. Directed by Nick Grindle.

11.50 Film: The Smiling Ghost* (1941) starring Alexis Smith as a woman who marries a man whose three fiancées all die mysteriously. Directed by Lewis Allen.

1.05 Closedown.

BBC 1

8.20 Open University, Unit 8.25.

8.40 Bed. A See-Saw programme for the very young (C). 8.15 Bed. A See-Saw programme for the very young (C). The last of three programmes from John Noakes and his dog, Shep, travelling by caravan through Kerry (C) 10.00 Aesop's Fables. A profile of the new Community Centre in south London, plus an interview with Peter Newman 10.30 Ceebox.

12.30 Encounters with Islam. The last of four programmes on the Muslim faith, presented by Ziauddin Sardar. 1.00 Fanning 1.25 Rockschool. Advice for aspiring rock musicians (C). 1.50 News headlines. 1.55 Cartoons: Mickey and Donald (C).

2.15 Film: Casablanca* (1942) starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman. A Bogart and Bergman classic, set in the Moroccan city during the Second World War, featuring a motley collection of expatriates ruled over by the deliciously corrupt Captain (Louis Lomax) (Claude Rains). Directed by Michael Curtiz. 3.55 Cartoons: Really Soem.

4.00 Bonanza. Ben Cartwright's timber business depends on a night of way that he finds very difficult to win (C).

4.50 Great Little Railways. Simon Hoggart travels the White Pass and Yukon railroad - the Gold Rush Line (C) (Ceebox titles page 170).

5.30 The World of the Flea and the Devil. Theological quiz between Hyetrop College and Spurgeon's College. The questionmaster is Colin Mounsey (C).

5.55 News with Jan Leeming.

6.05 Beau Geste. The final episode of the serial based on P. C. Wren's novel about the French Foreign Legion (C) (Ceebox titles page 170).

6.35 Appeal on behalf of the Council for Music in Hospitals by Ian Wallace.

6.40 Home on Sunday. Cliff Michmore visits Grace Kennedy at her Tottenham, north London, home, where she talks about the importance of family life (Ceebox titles page 170).

7.15 Film: Chapter Two (1979) starring James Cagney, Marsha Mason and Valerie Harper. Love story about a recently widowed man and his involvement with a recently divorced woman. Their romance blossoms but then respective skeletons in the cupboard threaten to break up the relationship. Written by Neil Simon and directed by Robert Moore (first showing on British television) (Ceebox titles page 170).

8.15 News with Jan Leeming.

8.30 That's Life. Includes progress reports on the two young liver transplant children; plus highlights of the series.

10.15 Omnibus. Introduced by Humphrey Burton, includes an investigation into Muzak and a profile of dancer Michael Clark.

11.05 Time Capsule: 1932 Los Angeles Olympics* drama documentary about the record-breaking tenth Olympiad.

11.55 The Sky at Night. Patrick Moore and Dr John Davies discuss the space probes that will be aimed at Halley's Comet.

12.15 Weather.

TV-am

7.25 Good Morning Britain presented by John Stapleton, with the first of several Sunday With Professor David Jenkins.

7.30 Rub-a-Dub-Tub. For early rising youngsters (C).

8.30 Good Morning Britain continues with news headlines. John Stapleton talks to John Biffen about the state of the government.

ITV LONDON

9.25 LWT Information. 9.30 I'm Yours. Ben Special. Derek Cooper with blind leader David Blizard and Winifred Tunin, a former member of the Warlock Committee (C). 10.00 Morning Worship from the Church of St Mary, Chipping, near Preston. 11.00 Getting On reports on a campaign in Cambridge to help the elderly with hearing problems. 11.30 Star Fleet. Episode 14 of the science fiction adventure (C).

12.30 Jobswatch. Roger Blyth and Shelley Rhodes talk to people who have set up their own business. 1.00 Police Five. Simon Taylor with more close to unresolved crimes. 1.15 The Smurfs (C). 1.30 The Groovy Ghouls. 2.00 The World of the Flea and the Devil. Johnson to talk about their views of the media are magazine editor End Morgan and Rabbi Jeremy Rosen.

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